/TelanganaToday
@TelanganaToday
t.me/TelanganaToday
/TelanganaToday

Telangana Today

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

Wednesday, September 18, 2024
Price Rs. 6
HYDERABAD EDITION
Vol. 8 | No. 277 | Pages 12

In a nutshell

Rani Kumudini new SEC

HYDERABAD: The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department issued orders appointing retired IAS officer I Rani Kumudini as the State Election Commissioner. GO Ms 62 was issued to this effect on Tuesday. Rani Kumudini will replace C Parthasarathi. A 1998 batch officer, she retired in July 2023 after serving in various capacities with both the State and union governments.

Class VI student dies in accident

KOTHAGUDEM: A Class VI student died and five others sustained injuries when a car rammed an auto-rickshaw on the outskirts of Sitarampuram on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Recha Eshwar (12). The incident occurred when the car, heading towards Paloncha from Pusugudem, collided with the auto head-on. The locals alleged that the car driver was under the influence of alcohol. Police booked a case and took up investigation.

Kolkata gets new police chief

KOLKATA: Senior IPS officer Manoj Kumar Verma was appointed the new Kolkata CP, replacing Vineet Goyal, a day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held a meeting with agitating junior doctors. Director of Health Services Debashis Halder, Director of Medical Education Kaustav Nayak and Deputy Commissioner of Kolkata Police's North Division Abhishek Gupta were also removed.

NATION PAGE 7

600 items gifted to PM on auction

NEW DELHI: Over 600 items, including a meticulously crafted model of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and a set of sporting memorabilia from the latest Paralympic Games, gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been put up for an e-auction. The beginning of the sixth edition of the online auction coincided with the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who turned 74 on Tuesday. PTI

Suspected Mpox case in Kerala

MALAPPURAM: A suspected case of Mpox infection was reported from Malappuram district of Kerala after a man who recently returned from Dubai showed symptoms of the disease. State Health Minister Veena George said that the man on noticing the symptoms had taken precautionary measures by isolating himself from his family and was currently hospitalised in the Manjeri Medical College. PTI

UNTIL NEXT TIME!

Hundreds of devotees at the Khairatabad Ganesh Shobha Yatra on the last day of Ganesh Chaturthi festivities in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

Hezbollah men among 9 killed as pagers explode

BEIRUT

Hundreds of handheld pagers exploded near-simultaneously across Lebanon and in parts of Syria on Tuesday, killing at least nine people, including members of the militant group Hezbollah and a girl, and wounding the Iranian ambassador, government officials said.

Officials pointed the finger at Israel in what appeared to be a sophisticated, remote attack that wounded more than 2,700 people at a time of rising tensions across the Lebanon border. Israel declined to comment.

A Hezbollah official who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the new brand of handheld pagers used by the group first heated up, then exploded, killing at least two of its members and wounding others. Lebanon's Health Minister Firas Abiad said at least nine people were killed and 2,750 wounded — 200 of them critically.

(REPORT PAGE 9)

SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer justice'

Says move against ethos of Constitution

PTI
NEW DELHI

There will be no demolition of properties, including of those accused of crime till October 1 without its permission, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while observing that even one instance of illegal demolition was against the "ethos" of the Constitution.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan clarified that its order will not be applicable to unauthorised structures on public roads, footpaths, railways lines or public places such as water bodies etc.

"Stand over to October 1 at the request of the Solicitor General. However, we direct that till the next date, no demolition without seeking leave of this court," the Bench said. "Even if there is one instance of an illegal demolition... it is against the ethos of our Constitution," the top court observed while hearing pleas that alleged that the properties of the accused were being demolished in several States illegally. The Bench also referred to statements made after the September 2 hearing in the matter during which the apex court had said it proposes to lay down certain guidelines on the issue that would be enforceable across the country.

"After that order, there have been statements that the bulldozer will continue ... and it all depends in whose hands the steering is," the Bench said, adding it was refraining from saying anything further on that. "Mr Mehta (solicitor general), after these directives are laid down, we will seek your assistance on this glorification and grandstanding... You will assist us on how to stop this. If necessary, we will ask the Election Commission also," the Bench said. The Bench said it had made it clear on September 2 that the court will not protect any unauthorised construction on a public road or public place. Mehta said in one of the matters, a footpath was encroached upon, and notices were issued before it was cleared.

> **STAND OVER TO OCTOBER 1 AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL. HOWEVER, WE DIRECT THAT TILL THE NEXT DATE, NO DEMOLITION WITHOUT SEEKING LEAVE OF THIS COURT, EVEN IF THERE IS ONE INSTANCE OF AN ILLEGAL DEMOLITION... IT IS AGAINST THE ETHOS OF OUR CONSTITUTION**
>
> **FOR FOOTPATH, WE WILL SAY NOT EVEN A NOTICE IS NEEDED. DEMOLISH FORTHWITH EVEN IF THERE IS A RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE OF ANY RELIGION**
>
> **— SUPREME COURT BENCH**

BRS, Congress, BJP celebrate their own version of Sept 17

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Telangana on Tuesday saw three different celebrations of the same event, the merger of the erstwhile Hyderabad State with the Indian union on September 17, 1948, as each of the three major political parties in the State had their own versions for the day.

While the BRS commemorated the day with the National Integration Day celebrations at Telangana Bhavan, the Congress-led State government organised its version as the Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam. The BJP, on the other hand, was part of the Centre's version of the day, the Hyderabad Liberation Day, as part of which programmes were organised at Parade Grounds.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, speaking at the State's official celebrations of Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam, warned against any attempt to derive political mileage from the Telangana armed struggle and said it would be akin to ignoring the sacrifices of Telangana martyrs of yesteryear by calling it Integration Day or Liberation Day.

Interestingly, his party's headquarters, Gandhi Bhavan, celebrated the day as Integration Day. Similarly, many district units and leaders of the Congress continued to call it Integration Day. Not just Gandhi Bhavan, even the official X handle of Telangana Congress @INCTelangana also called it Integration Day.

Sharing a few images and videos on X, the @INCTelangana said "Telangana Integration Day celebrations at Gandhi Bhavan. TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Khairthabad MLA D Nagender and others participated..."

Addressing party leaders at Gandhi Bhavan, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud said the Congress was celebrating the day since September 17, 1948, as Integration Day. However, the BJP, which was not even established then, was demanding to celebrate it as Liberation Day, he said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

BRS holds protest across Telangana

HYDERABAD: The BRS cadre performed *palabhishekam* to statues and portraits of Telangana Thalli across State on Tuesday, protesting against the Congress' installation of a statue of Rajiv Gandhi in front of the Secretariat. They also staged demonstrations, demanding the Congress government to replace Rajiv Gandhi's statue with the Telangana Thalli as originally planned. (REPORT PAGE 5)

PM to visit US from Sep 21-23

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a three-day visit to the US beginning September 21 to attend Quad Summit and address the 'Summit of the Future' at the UNGA. He will also address the Indian community on September 22. PTI

Atishi next Delhi CM, Kejriwal resigns

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party led by its Chief Minister-designate Atishi staked claim to form a new government in Delhi on Tuesday shortly after Arvind Kejriwal resigned from the post, an effort seen as a bold gambit to seize the initiative ahead of Assembly elections due in five months. "I will work with one goal for the next few months... to bring back Kejriwal as the Chief Minister," said the 43-year-old, who is set to be Delhi's third woman Chief Minister after Congress' Sheila Dikshit and BJP's Sushma Swaraj.

It was confirmation if any were needed that Kejriwal's grip on the party remains firm and this move is aimed at giving him space to set the agenda. Beset by charges of corruption over the excise scam and released from jail last week, the AAP supremo submitted his resignation to Lt Governor VK Saxena in the evening, virtually seeking a referendum on his "politics of honesty".

Though Atishi was a frontrunner for the post and considered close to both Kejriwal and his second in command Manish Sisodia, the speculation over who would succeed him was intense. Ending the debate, Kejriwal proposed the name of the Kalkaji legislator at a meeting of the AAP legislative party and it was accepted unanimously. Up next, the LG will forward Kejriwal's resignation letter to President Droupadi Murmu for her acceptance.

He will also send Atishi's letter to form a new government for the President's nod, an official said. Once the resignation is accepted, the LG will invite Atishi to form the government and give a date for the oath-taking ceremony, the official said, adding that the process may take a few days. The new Chief Minister will prove the majority of her government in the Delhi Assembly, a session of which has been called by the ruling AAP dispensation on September 26-27.

Atishi, who holds 14 portfolios, including Finance, Education and Revenue, was amongst those holding the fort while Kejriwal was in jail. "We have staked claim to form a new government. I will protect the interests of Delhi people," she said after Kejriwal's meeting with the LG.

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

AT THE HELM

AS ATISHI GEARS UP TO BECOME DELHI CM, A LOOK AT THE PAST WOMAN CMS OF INDIA

AAP's Atishi and Arvind Kejriwal with Lt Governor VK Saxena to stake claim for forming new government.

- **Sucheta Kriplani** (UP): 1963 to 1967
- **Nandini Satpathy** (Odisha): 1972 to 1976
- **Shashikala Kakodkar** (Goa): 1973 to 1979
- **Syeda Anwara Taimur** (Assam): 1980 to 1981
- **Janaki Ramachandran** (Tamil Nadu): 1988
- **Jayaram Jayalalithaa** (Tamil Nadu): 1991 to 1996, 2001, 2002 to 2006, 2011 to 2014, 2015 to 2016
- **Vasundhara Raje Scindia** (Rajasthan): 2003 to 2008, 2013 to 2018
- **Mayawati** (Uttar Pradesh): 1995, 1997, 2002-2003, 2007 to 2012
- **Rajinder Kaur Bhattal** (Punjab): 1996 to 1997
- **Rabri Devi (Bihar):** 1997 to 1999, 1999 to 2000, 2000 to 2005
- **Sushma Swaraj** (Delhi): 1998
- **Sheila Dikshit** (Delhi): 1998 to 2013
- **Uma Bharti** (Madhya Pradesh): 2003 to 2004
- **Mamata Banerjee** (West Bengal): 2011 to till date
- **Anandiben Patel** (Gujarat): 2014 to 2016
- **Mehbooba Mufti** (Jammu and Kashmir): 2016 to 2018

Unidentified persons blast surplus weir of tank

STATE BUREAU
Mancherial

Unidentified persons blasted the surplus weir (matthadi) of an irrigation tank, locally known as Shanigakunta, using detonators in Chennur on Monday. Officials of the Irrigation Department lodged a complaint with police. In a statement, the officials said that unidentified persons blew up the surplus weir using explosives, causing the draining of water from the tank. (SEE PAGE 2)

Announcement on census soon: Shah

NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that the government will "very soon" make an announcement for carrying out the census in the country. "We will announce it very soon," Shah said in response to a question on conducting the decadal census of the Indian population which has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Shah, along with I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, was addressing a press conference to mark the 100 days of the third tenure of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "We will make all the details public when we announce the census," the Union Home Minister said to questions on the caste census.

Vociferous demands

India has conducted the census every 10 years since 1881. The first phase of this decade's census was expected to begin on April 1, 2020, but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Shah's comments on the census come amid vociferous demands from political parties to conduct a caste census. In the absence of fresh data, government agencies are still formulating policies and allocating subsidies based on the data of the 2011 census. The house listing phase of the census and the exercise to update the National Population Register were scheduled to be carried out across the country from April 1 to September 30, 2020, but it was postponed due to Covid.

The entire census and the NPR exercise is likely to cost the government more than Rs 12,000 crore, according to officials. PTI

> **The first phase of this decade's census was expected to begin on April 1, 2020, but had to be postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic**

Farmer builds bridge across stream to reach his field

T KARNAKAR REDDY
Medak

For Kamari Ramulu and his son Dattu Kishore, residents of Tekmal mandal headquarters, the best proverb to frame and hang on their wall could be 'Where there is a will, there is a way...'.

Ramulu owns 15 acres of land on one side of a stream called Gundu Vagu, which would be in full swing for a major part of the rainy season. Apart from Ramulu, many other farmers own lands on the other side of the stream. Whenever the stream comes to life, the farmers have to travel some five to six kilometres to reach their fields. Though a 60-yard bridge would reduce the distance between their fields and village to a few meters, there was no such bridge. (SEE PAGE 2)

The bridge which was built across Gundu Vagu in Medak.

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with light rain or drizzle

Max. tem: 31.2°C
Min. tem: 23.1°C
RH: 55%
Rainfall: Nil

Few takers for seats at IIT-H

Institute finding it hard to attract top rankers in JEE Advanced

YUVRAJ AKULA
HYDERABAD

In a significant concern for the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, none of the top 200 rankers in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced have chosen to enrol in this premier institute for the academic year 2024-25.

Only three of the top 500 candidates and 41 out of top 1,000 rankers opted for the IIT-Hyderabad, reflecting the institution's inability in attracting top rankers in the JEE Advanced, one of the toughest entrance tests in the country. This alarming trend has been revealed in the Joint Implementation Committee report published by the IIT-Madras that conducted the JEE Advanced 2024.

In contrast, the IIT-Bombay continued to solidify its reputation as the top pick for the rankers, with an overwhelming 47 out of top 50 rankers opting the institution during the academic year 2024-25. Further, 72 out of top 100, 100 out of top 200 and 179 out of top 500 and 246 out of top 1,000 rankers have chosen the IIT-Bombay. Most of the toppers have opted for a career in computer science and engineering at the IIT-Bombay.

After the IIT-Bombay, the IIT-Delhi was the only premier institution that attracted two out of top 50 rankers in the JEE Advanced. Similarly, 23 out of top 100, 50 out of top 200, 109 out of top 500 and 204 out of top 1,000 rankers opted for the IIT-Bombay.

Only three of the top 500 candidates and 41 out of top 1,000 rankers opted for the IIT-Hyderabad.

Allotment of top 1000 rankers across institutes

Institute	Top 50	Top 100	Top 200	Top 500	Top 1000
IIT Bombay	47	72	100	179	246
IIT Delhi	2	23	50	109	204
IIT Kharagpur	0	0	0	45	82
IIT Hyderabad	0	0	0	3	41
IIT Madras	0	2	30	69	128

The IIT-Madras, which organised the test, could attract only two of the top 100 rankers.

For the academic year 2024, a total of 17,760 seats, including 3,566 female supernumerary seats available only for female candidates, were up for grabs through the Joint Seat Allocation Authority counselling. In the fifth (final) round of allotment, 17,695 seats were allotted to the candidates.

Interestingly, according to the report, the IIT-Hyderabad, which failed to attract JEE Advanced top rankers, could successfully fill up all its seats. While there were 595 seats, 597 seats, including supernumerary seats, were filled. Of these, 476 are boys and 120 were girls.

The IIT Kharagpur had the highest number of admissions with 1,915 students, followed by IIT Varanasi with 1,572, IIT Bombay with 1,371 and IIT Roorkee with 1,351 seats being filled up.

Laughter and thrills: 'Mathu Vadalara 2' on mark

Title: Mathu Vadalara 2
Director: Ritesh Rana
Cast: Simha Koduri, Faria Abdullah, Satya, Rohini, Sunil and Vennela Kishore

Movie review

The hilarious entertainer 'Mathu-vadalara' is back with a sequel helmed by Ritesh Rana. In 'Mathu Vadalara 2', in addition to Sunil and Faria Abdullah joining the cast, Sri Simha Koduri, Satya, and Vennela Kishore return from the first film.

Sequels are always challenging and more so when the basic tenets for the introductory movie are humour and out-and-out entertainment. Since the recall of the first movie remains etched in, the sequel has to improve upon and make it livelier and more amusing. To a large extent, 'Mathu Vadalara 2' succeeds in ensuing this.

The first half of the movie is enjoyable and humorous, and it starts off that way. Every component complements the story's comedic element nicely. Despite being a follow-up to the first instalment, which debuted in 2019, characters are brought into the narrative through a fresh tale.

As the second half progresses, it becomes increasingly narrative focused with sporadic comedic moments. A hilarious climax marks the film's conclusion.

With the characters Yesu and Babu, the film opens with a continuation of the first part. They both start working for the 'HE' team of the police and as expected of them, end up entangled in issues. There is the right mix of crime and suspense, and it really gets laced with fun and humour. The main focus of the story is how they resolve that issue and resume their regular lives.

Technical features are passable and product design gives the movie a neat touch. Songs and background music are both excellent.

In terms of the cast, each performer had a strong performance, and Satya, who portrays the character of Yesu, steals the show with his comedic timing and delivery of lines whenever he was on-screen.

Also, there is some excellent satire that resonates with contemporary situations about a variety of topics, such as fan fights and daily serials. Overall, this movie moves along nicely, and it closes with a scene that suggests what comes next. The comedy woven throughout the crime tale elevates the film as a whole, despite its foundation in crime. For all those who enjoy comedy films and enjoyment, this is a must-watch.

— Nirupama Kodukula

In Brief

HYDERABAD
Vignan's webinar

Vignan Online, the online learning arm of Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology & Research (deemed-to-be-university), will hold a live webinar titled 'AI's Job Revolution' on September 18 from 7 pm. This event will be organised under Vignan Online Experience (VOX), the learner's community space of Vignan Online. The session will be led by Dipanjan Deb, executive director of Decision Science & Artificial Intelligence at Wells Fargo. He has over two decades of experience, a release said.

HYDERABAD
Mahindra scholarship

Mahindra Truck and Bus Division (MTBD), a part of the Mahindra Group, in commemoration of Drivers Day 2024, announced a scholarship scheme for girl child of truck drivers through the Mahindra Saarthi Abhiyaan. Through this project, Mahindra is committed to make a small contribution towards transforming the lives of truck drivers' meritorious girls by supporting their right to higher education. Mahindra is one of the first commercial vehicle manufacturers to pioneer this initiative.

HYDERABAD
Limited time offer

Mindspace SOCIAL has announced a new limited time offer that lets guests buy one drink and get the second for just Rs 1, Rs 11, or Rs 111, depending on the drink of choice. With this new offering, Mindspace SOCIAL aims to give guests more reasons to celebrate, create cherished memories, and enjoy endless gatherings at their neighbourhood café. Each SOCIAL outlet will have a unique menu curated just for this offer, adding a local twist to your #drnks experience.

NALSAR wins 1st edition of moot court contest

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

NALSAR Hyderabad has emerged as winners at the first edition of NLSIU-SAM-Fintech Moot Court Competition that concluded at the NLSIU, Bengaluru, campus.

With an aim to address some of the key emerging issues in fintech regulation, the moot court engaged with the students and judges on issues linked to emerging fintech regulation, virtual digital assets, fractional ownership and more. A total of 36 teams from colleges across the country registered for the competition, out of which 24 teams qualified for the oral rounds and engaged in arguments addressing the issues.

The final bench was presided over by Sajan Poovayya, senior advocate, Jayna Kothari, senior advocate, Madhavi Divan, Additional Solicitor General, Ananth Padmanabhan, Dean of Vinayaka Mission's Law School and Shilpa Mankar Ahluwalia, partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co (SAM & Co).

> 36 teams from colleges across the country registered for the competition, out of which 24 teams qualified

Shilpa said, "The Fintech Conference brought together thought leaders from the regulator and fintech industry to discuss how best to address some of these legal challenges."

Good Opportunity

Dr. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor of NLSIU, said, "This collaboration with SAM for the Fintech Moot Court Competition created an outstanding opportunity for students to engage with some of the most complex regulatory challenges in the fintech ecosystem."

SAM & Co offered an internship to each member of the winning team and also to the runner-up (Jindal Global University).

Office leasing market sees 71% rise in Hyd

City continues to dominate in the segment, says Knight Frank report

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

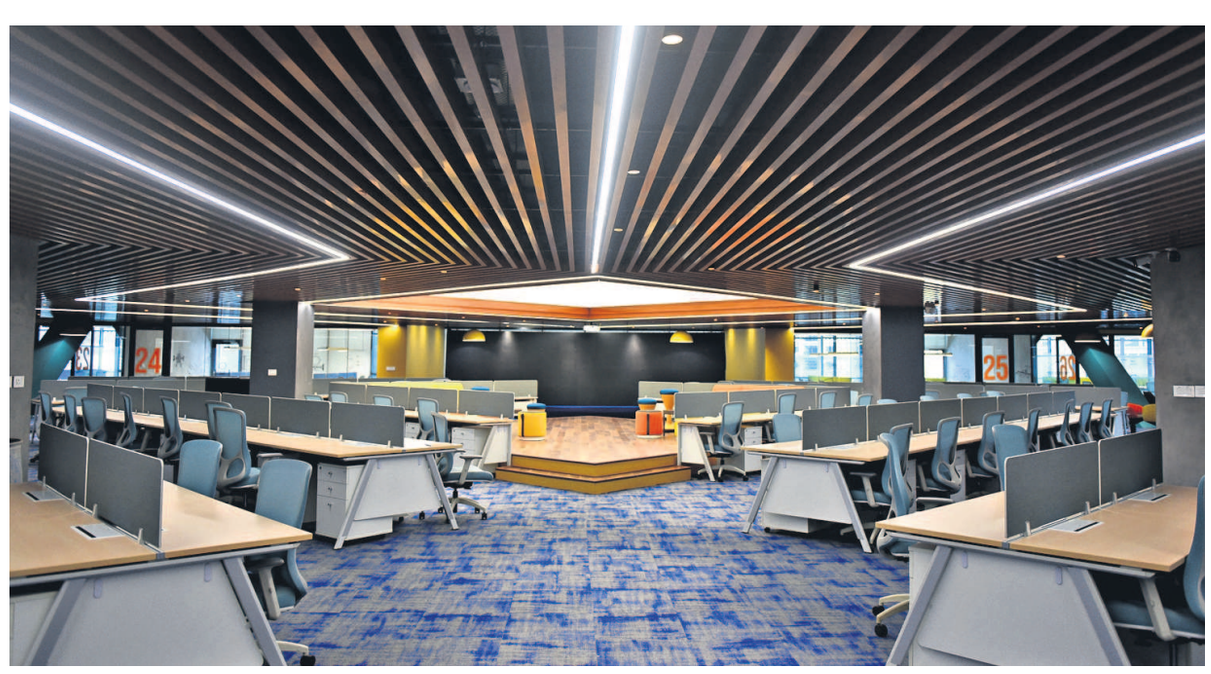
Nurturing Hyderabad over the last decade with focus on quality of life and a series of measures to improve the infrastructure continue to help the city sustain its dominance in office spaces leasing.

The latest report from Knight Frank India, the country's premier real estate consultancy, documents that Hyderabad's office leasing market experiencing a sharp 71 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth, with a total of 5 mn sft of area being transacted during H1 2024. The increase in absorption by Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and flex space operators can be primarily attributed for the rise in demand for large office spaces in the city, it says.

According to Knight Frank report, large office spaces (1,00,000 sft or more) constituted for 61 per cent of Hyderabad's total transactions in H1 2024, with 3.08 million sft transacted. This marks a 109 per cent year-on-year growth compared to 1.47 million sft in H1 2023.

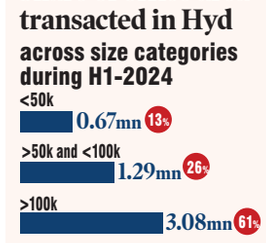
In the first half of 2024, approximately 26 per cent of transactions, totalling 1.29 million sft, occurred in mid-sized office spaces ranging from 50,000 sft to 1,00,000 sft. This category experienced a significant YoY growth of 200 per cent, up from 0.43 million sft in H1 2023.

Small office spaces, measuring below 50,000 sft made up 13 per cent of transactions in H1 2024, totalling 0.67 million sft, the study pointed out. Joseph Thilak, National Director - Occupier Strategy and Solutions (Hyderabad & Chennai), Knight Frank India, points out that Hyderabad has seen strong growth in demand in recent years, reinforcing its position as a preferred hub for businesses. "This demand is fuelled by the city's exceptional quality of life, strong infrastructure, and steady influx of top-tier talent," he says. The recovery of the Information Technology sector in 2024, along with increased hiring activity, particularly by GCCs, is anticipated to further boost commercial leasing demand in the coming months, Joseph Thilak adds.



Large office spaces (1,00,000 sft or more) constituted for 61 per cent of Hyderabad's total transactions in H1 2024.

Share of office area transacted in Hyd across size categories during H1-2024



Continuation
from page 1

BRS, Cong, BJP celebrate their own version of Sept 17

A few district Congress units, including those in erstwhile Nalgonda and Warangal, also celebrated the day as Integration Day.

Meanwhile, union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy, speaking at the Hyderabad Liberation Day programme of the Centre, alleged that successive governments refused to officially celebrate the occasion on September 17, due to appeasement and vote bank politics.

The BRS, which had officially celebrated the National Integration Day while in power, on Tuesday continued the same version with party working president KT Rama Rao hoisting the national flag at Telangana Bhavan here. Earlier, he performed a 'palabhishekam' to the statue of Telangana Thalli on the Bhavan premises to mark the State-wide protests launched by the BRS, opposing the State government's installation of a statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in front of the Secretariat, where the previous government had plans to install a statue of Telangana Thalli. Stating that Revanth Reddy installed Rajiv Gandhi's statue to appease the Congress leadership while ignoring Telangana's sentiments, Rama Rao said the Chief Minister had insulted the people of Telangana by unveiling Rajiv Gandhi's statue in the place specifically earmarked for Telangana Thalli's statue.

> BRS, which had officially celebrated the National Integration Day while in power, on Tuesday continued the same version

Reiterating that once BRS returned to power, the statue would be removed and sent to Gandhi Bhavan with full honours, he said it would be replaced with the statue of Telangana Thalli.

Rama Rao also ridiculed Revanth Reddy's comments on Rajiv Gandhi's contributions to India's technological advancements.

Stating that the Chief Minister lacked basic knowledge, he said it was not Rajiv Gandhi, but Charles Babbage who invented the computer. "Similarly, it wasn't Rajiv Gandhi who introduced computers to India.

The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Automatic Calculator (TIFRAC) started computer services in 1956 when Rajiv was just 12 years old," he said, dismissing Revanth's remarks as uninformed rhetoric.

The BRS working president also demanded the immediate release of BRS student leaders who were arrested during protests against the installation of the Rajiv Gandhi statue. "These students protested peacefully against the disrespect shown to Telangana's heritage. They must be released immediately," he said.

Farmer builds bridge across stream to reach his field

During the last rainy season, Ramulu could not transplant paddy as the stream did not allow them to cross for 15 days. After suffering repeated losses, Ramulu and his son Kishore decided to build a bridge on their own.

Since Ramulu knew welding and a little bit of carpentry as well, he spent Rs 2 lakh to procure cement poles and steel to build the bridge. The father-son duo built the bridge within 20 days before the onset of the rainy season. When the Gundu Vagu was in full swing for the last 20 days, Ramulu crossed the stream without any issues. He also allowed other farmers to use the bridge and reach their fields, thus winning their hearts.

Ramulu is now preparing to lay a sheet on the steel bridge to enable two-wheelers ride along on the bridge soon.

After his work, Ramulu is now known as 'Bridge Ramulu' by the local farmers. The villagers are now demanding that the government build a permanent bridge across the stream to put an end to their struggles since they can take tractors and other heavy vehicles across the stream.

Unidentified persons blast surplus weir of tank

They repaired the weir by placing sandbags. They lodged a complaint with police, who in turn registered a case and took up investigations. Meanwhile, locals alleged that some Congress leaders intentionally exploded the surplus weir of the tank in order to occupy the land of the water body. While the State government was trying to protect irrigation tanks by removing encroachers, certain leaders of the Congress party blasted the tank with an intention to occupy the land, a local commented.

Grand farewell for Ganesh

The towering 70 ft Khairatabad Ganesh immersed in Hussain Sagar at 1.45 pm

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The 'Shobha Yatra' of the 70 ft-tall Khairatabad Ganesh idol, a major attraction during the Ganesh Chaturthi in Hyderabad, which began on Tuesday morning concluded around 1.45 pm with the idol immersion in Hussain Sagar. As per the planned schedule, the immersion was done from crane No 4 installed at NTR Marg, within a record time of 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, the immersion of thousands of Ganesh idols, following the conclusion of the nine-day Ganesh Chaturthi festivities, began on a grand scale on Tuesday morning. Around 1 lakh idol are expected to be immersed in various water bodies this year in the city.

The administration made elaborate arrangements for the immersion of the idols. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy took part in the idol immersion process and inspected the arrangements on the ground. He directed that special supervision be made at Hussain Sagar and other water bodies. The immersion in the GHMC limits was being supervised with 733 CCTV cameras and a total of 15,000 personnel, including sanitation, engineering and others, deployed to work in three shifts for 24 hours for the event. As many as 468 cranes were set up for the immersion. Around 25,000 police personnel were deployed as part of the security arrangements for the immersion. The Hyderabad Traffic Police put in place traffic restrictions for the smooth conduct of the nimmajan, which is expected to go on for 24 hours. Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand expressed confidence that the process would conclude by Tuesday midnight.

Thousands of devotees take part in the Ganesh idol immersion procession as it makes its way through the main thoroughfares, on Tuesday. Around one lakh idols are expected to be immersed in various water bodies across the city. — Photos: Anand Dharmana & Surya Sridhar

Idols from old city start early

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Ganesh idols of different models lined up the old city roads for the final immersion procession on Tuesday. Since morning idols started making their way towards Hussain Sagar from older parts of the city even as the procession gained momentum after the Balapur Ganesh passed the Charminar around 2 pm.

Amidst tight security, the Balapur Ganesh was escorted through the Balapur, Keshavgiri, Chandrayangutta, Falaknuma, Aliabad, Shahalibanda, Charminar and Nayapul. The idol crossed the Nayapul bridge around 2.30 pm. Thousands of people walked alongside the truck carrying the Balapur Ganesh.

Later, several idols from Shamsheergunj, Chatrinaka, Lal Darwaza, Gowlipura, Uppuguda, Lalithabagh, Sultan Shahi, Ghansi Bazaar, Puranapul, Aliabad, Phoolbagh and Kabootarkhana made their way to Charminar. The Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Committee had erected a stage at Charminar from where the procession was welcomed. The AIMIM party leader Mohammed Ghouse had put up a welcome stage at Charminar and arranged food for the devotees.

Youngsters danced to the drum beats and the DJ music along the procession route. The highlight of the procession was the truck carrying the Ganesh idol of 'Pittallolu Jana Jathi Samaj' Shamsheergunj which was decorated using different varieties of fruits. Another truck had a replica of the machine gun seen in the Bollywood movie 'Animal'.

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Revised list released

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) on Tuesday released a revised provisional selection list with 596 candidates for recruitment to posts of PET in residential educational institutions societies. The list has been revised after considering relinquishments of 53 candidates. The provisional selection list after relinquishments and general ranking list have been made available on https://www.tspsc.gov.in/.

HYDERABAD

Counselling rescheduled

The PGLCET 2024 first phase admission counselling for LLM courses has been rescheduled with last date for online registration-cum-verification being Sept 24. Web options will be available on Sept 26 and 27, and they can be edited on Sept 28. A provisional selection list will be released on September 30.

Joyous celebrations

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The city outskirts and colonies, particularly those in the vicinity of water bodies, witnessed joyous celebrations with devotees taking part in immersion festivities on Tuesday.

While most individual households had already immersed their Ganesh idols in the last few days, on Tuesday, it was the turn of large-sized idols from residential colony youth associations located in and around Uppal, Nagole, Peerzadiguda, Saroornagar, Ramanthapur, Keesara, Safilguda and Kapra municipality, to complete the immersion rituals.

The immersion celebrations were conducted amidst elaborate security measures. To ensure the huge Ganesh idols were immersed fittingly, cranes were provided at all the major water bodies including Kapra lake, mini-tank bund at Safilguda, Pedda Cheruvu, Ramanthapur, Nalla Cheruvu, Uppal, Saroornagar Cheruvu and Durgam Cheruvu. Idols from colonies in Moula Ali, Lalapet, Malkajgiri were immersed in Safilguda lake while those in Dr A S Rao Nagar, ECIL, Neredmet and RK Puram were immersed in the Kapra lake. In Shamirpet lake, small and big idols from Alwal, Trimulgherry, Lothukunta, Bollaram and Risalabazar were immersed. Big idols from Habsiguda, Tarnaka, Nacharam and Nagole were immersed in Ramanthapur lake, Uppal Cheruvu.

Saroornagar lake was the most preferred destination for Ganesh idols from Dilsukhnagar, Chaitanyapuri, Moosarambagh, Malakpet, Kothapet and LB Nagar.

MJ Market decorated with lights, banners

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The immersion procession at MJ Market is one of the most anticipated events every year in Hyderabad. Idol processions from various neighbourhoods around the city converge at this historical marketplace before moving towards the immersion points at Hussain Sagar.

The roads leading to MJ Market were decorated with lights and banners, while floats carrying beautifully adorned idols made their way through the crowded streets. Idols of Lord Ganesh, ranging from small family idols to big community ones, carried in decorated vehicles moved slowly towards Tank Bund.

These vehicles, adorned with flowers and lights, also became mobile platforms for devotees and artists to perform rituals, dance, and sing devotional songs. Drummers and local musicians accompanied the processions, adding to the festive energy as people chanted 'Ganpati Bappa Morya'. Many were seen carrying smaller and unique design idols on their heads or shoulders to for immersion.

Over 20,000 cops deployed

HYDERABAD: Ganesh idol immersion procession was passing off peacefully in the city under the watchful eyes of the 20,000 strong police force said City Police Commissioner, CV Anand, here on Tuesday. Interacting with the media, he said the police had started planning for the mega event for a few months, and with the help of other government departments and the cooperation of the public, the process was going on smoothly. On the Khairatabad Ganesh idol immersion, he said. "It happened because of hard work of our officers who had spent a whole day planning the journey of the 70 feet idol." The police expect the main roads in the city to be free for movement of regular traffic by Wednesday morning. "A separate holding area on Necklace Road is earmarked for idols that reach Hussain Sagar in late night hours," he said.

DGP monitors procession

HYDERABAD: Director General of Police Dr Jitender reviewed the immersion procession from the Control Centre at Lakdikapul DGP office. Speaking to reporters, Dr Jitender stated that coordination meetings were held during the last few weeks as part of the preparatory measures. He said the government had made necessary arrangements for the immersion process. Dr Jitender stated that the immersion process had been completed in other important areas of the State and that efforts were being made to complete the immersion as soon as possible as Wednesday is a working day.

'Laddu' at Richmond Villas fetches Rs 1.87cr!

HYDERABAD: The Ganesh laddu from Keerthi Richmond Villas in Bandlaguda here has hit the headlines yet again for its expensive bid in the State. The laddu prasadam went under hammer for a staggering Rs 1.87 crore, marking an increase of Rs 61 lakh compared to last year. The organisers who conducted the laddu auction on Monday night saw intense bids from the devotees, pushing the price to a new record. However, the organisers did not reveal the name of the successful bidder. Last year, the laddu fetched the organisers Rs 1.26 crore. In 2022, it went under hammer for Rs.60 lakh. According to organisers, the money generated through the auctioning of the laddu were being used for the multiple developmental projects in the area and welfare of the economically weaker sections.

Balapur laddu goes for Rs 30.01 lakh

HYDERABAD: Shattering previous records, the Balapur Ganesh laddu fetched Rs 30.01 lakh, which was Rs 3.01 lakh more than last year.

In the auction organized by Balapur Ganesh Utsav Samithi, BJP Telangana executive member and Balapur local, Kolan Shankar Reddy successfully bid for the 21-kg Bangaru laddu. The Ganesh Utsav Samithi which commenced the auction at Rs 1,116 saw bids touching Rs 30.01 lakh in no time and Shankar Reddy came out successful. Last year, Dasari Dayananda Reddy of Turkayamjal in Ranga Reddy district got the laddu for Rs 27 lakh.

Two drown in separate incidents

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Two persons drowned during the immersion festivities on Tuesday. In Nizamabad, B Yesaiah (25) drowned in a pond while immersing the idol in Lingareddypeta village of Yellareddy mandal.

According to reports, Yesaiah, went to immerse the idol at a local pond and accidently fell into the water body. His body was recovered in the wee hours of Tuesday. In another incident, a youth lost his life after accidentally slipping into a pond in Yadadri Bhongir district. He was identified as Praveen from Jiblak Palli in Bhoodan Pochampally mandal. Eyewitnesses said Praveen slipped while taking a dip in the pond. Due to the depth, onlookers were unable to rescue him.

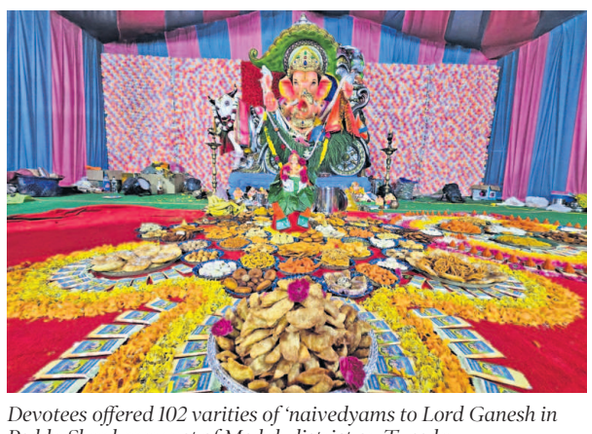
151 varieties of 'naivedyams'

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

Devotees in the erstwhile Medak district appear to have set a new trend this year by offering 151 varieties of 'naivedyams' to the Lord.

In some villages, there were 51 and 101 offerings too. Though the devotees do not know who exactly began this trend, everyone began following it. On Tuesday, devotees of Pedda Shanaramapet offered 102 types of prasadams which include 51 hot and 51 sweet varieties.

Madhava Nagar Colony Ganesh Utsav committee made these prasadams. Devotees of Sikh Wada in Sangareddy prepared 51 offerings on Monday while another utsav committee in Chinna Shankarampet offered 101 types of prasadams on Sunday. The ustav committees across Medak district followed the trend this year with women members actively participating in he process of preparing a variety of prasadams.



Devotees offered 102 varities of 'naivedyams to Lord Ganesh in Pedda Shankarampet of Medak district on Tuesday.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Alampally Road Branch-21830, Vikarabad, Rangareddy Dist

POSSESSION NOTICE (SYMBOLIC) "LEGAL HEIRS"
Under Rule 8 (1) and (2) (For immovable property)

Where as The undersigned being the authorized officer of the State Bank of India, Alampally Branch, Rangareddy Dist, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice Dated 22.05.2024** calling up on the borrower,
Late Konapuram Jangaiah S/o Shivaiah Passed Away, **"legal Heirs"**
To,
1. Smt Konapuram Suvarna W/o Late Konapuram Jangaiah
H.No.4-3-29, Baack Quarters, Ananthagiri Road, Vikarabad, Rangareddy Dist- 501101
2. Konapuram Kirthi D/o Late Konapuram Jangaiah.
3. Konapuram Raj Kumar D/o Late Konapuram Jangaiah. Also at: H.No. 4-3-29, Baack Quarters, Ananthagiri Road, Vikarabad, Rangareddy Dist- 501101
4. Konapuram Shashank S/o Late Konapuram Jangaiah 2, 3 & 4 Adress: 4-3-29, Baack Quarters, Ananthagiri Road, Vikarabad, Rangareddy Dist- 501101
A/C: 62436049508
to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.7,48,721/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty One Only)** as on **21.05.2024 + interest + other** incidental expenses wherever applicable & expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Ordinance* read with Rule 8 of the said rules on **11.09.2024**

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, Alampally Branch, Rangareddy Dist, for an amount of being **Rs.8,66,409/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Nine Only)** as on **11.09.2024** + interest + other incidental expenses wherever applicable.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All the part and Parcel of the existing RCC Roofed Residential Building having Plinth Area Part in Survey No. 84 and 88, Ward No. 4, Block No. 12, Near H.No. 4-12-400, Vide LP No.90/97, admeasuring 133.33 Square yards or 111.48 Square meters Situated at Gangaram Village, Vikarabad Town and Municipality, Rangareddy dist Falling Under the Jurisdiction of District Registration Rangareddy and Sub Registrar Vikarabad. Belonging to Sri Konapuram jangaiah S/o Shivaiah Vide Sale Deed Document No. 5025/2008 Dated at 04.10.2008 and
Bounded by : North : 33' Feet Road, **South :** Plot No.51, **East** : Plot No 47/Part, **West** : Plot No 46

Place: Vikarabad **Authorized Officer**
Date: 11.09.2024 **State Bank of India**

MATURI VENKATA SUBBA RAO (MVSR) ENGINEERING COLLEGE
Nadergul, Hyderabad-501510
(Sponsored by Matrusri Education Society, Estd.1980)
(Approved by AICTE, Affiliated to Osmania University)
(An Autonomous Institution) Non-minority Institution

"Admission Notification for the Academic year 2024-25"
MBA – First Year – Category B - 18 Seats.
For Details visit college website: **www.mvsrec.edu.in**

Eligible candidates can obtain application forms from the college website (for online submission) or college office on any working day between **11:00AM & 3:00PM.**
The application registration fee of **Rs. 3,000** is non-refundable.
The last date for receipt of application is **25-09-2024**. Latest by **3:00PM** at college office. The admissions will be made as per TGCHE guidelines.
Date: 18.09.2024 **Sd/- Secretary**

ANWARUL ULOOM COLLEGE OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
Approved by AICTE, Affiliated to Osmania University &Recognised by Govt.of TS.
New Mallepally Hyderabad 500001.
(Muslim Minority Institution)

ADMISSIONS NOTIFICATION
For category "B" Seats (Management Quota)

COURSE	TOTAL INTAKE	"B" CATEGORY
MBA	300	90
MCA(SF)	60	18

Admissions will be made on merit in order of preference as per Telangana State Norms.

Application can be obtained and submitted from the college on all working days from 20/09/2024 to 03/10/2024, between 10 am to 4 pm on payment of Rs.1000/- towards application and registration. Tution Fee Fix by TAFRC Telangana: Rs.75000/-per year for MBA and Rs.27000/-for MCA, **Further Details contact: 040-23340208, 7780606642, and 9885062290.**

ANWARUL ULOOM COLLEGE FOR COMPUTER STUDIES
Approved by AICTE, Affiliated to Osmania University &Recognised by Govt.of TS.
New Mallepally Hyderabad 500001.
(Muslim Minority Institution)

ADMISSIONS NOTIFICATION
For category "B" Seats (Management Quota)

COURSE	TOTAL INTAKE	"B" CATEGORY
MBA	60	18

Admissions will be made on merit in order of preference as per Telangana State Norms.

Application can be obtained and submitted from the college on all working days from 20/09/2024 to 03/10/2024, between 10 am to 4 pm on payment of Rs.1000/- towards application and registration. Tution Fee Fix by TAFRC Telangana: Rs.70000/-per year for MBA **Further Details contact: 040-23340208, 7780606642, and 9885062290.**

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Vigilance chief named

Retired IAS officer MG Gopal has been appointed as Vigilance Commissioner for three years. Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari issued orders to this effect on Tuesday.

MEDAK

Man dies by suicide

A labourer died, allegedly by suicide, under the wheels of a speeding train at Akkannapet railway station. Venkatapuram Shivaramulu (32), a resident of Golparthy in Ramayampet mandal, was working as a labourer in a local gas company, and was said to be struggling financially. In a state of depression, he left home on Monday night and was found dead on the railway tracks the following day.

Rains 34% above normal in State

Southwest monsoon likely to extend until late September: IMD

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO
HYDERABAD

The State has witnessed an exceptionally wet monsoon season this year, with rainfall recorded at 34 per cent above normal level. The State has received a cumulative rainfall of 898.1 mm from June 1 to September 17, compared to the normal 668.6 mm for this period.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated that the southwest monsoon, which typically retreats from the Northwest by September 17, may extend its stay briefly due to the development of another low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal later this month.

This could lead to continued rainfall in Telangana and other parts of South India until late September. Several districts in Telangana have experienced significant deviations from normal rainfall levels. The districts of Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, Mahabubnagar, Jogulamba Gadwal and Nagarkurnool have seen large excesses in rainfall, with deviations ranging from 78 per cent to 102 per cent.

Tracking monsoon

- Normal rainfall recorded in **seven districts**
- Large excess recorded in five districts
- **21 districts** receive excess rainfall
- Cumulative rainfall of **898.1 mm** recorded from June to **Sept 17**

The districts of Kamareddy, Hanamkonda, Yadadri Bhongir, Jangaon, Kumram Bheem, Adilabad and Mancherial received normal rainfall while the remaining 21 districts experienced excess rainfall ranging from 20 per cent to 59 per cent.

The heavy rains have led to catastrophic deluges and flooding in parts of Telangana, causing significant disruptions and damage. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area recorded 693.6 mm of rainfall, a 27 per cent deviation from the normal 547.8 mm.

Meteorologists predict that the monsoon withdrawal process, which begins from Western Rajasthan, will bring an end to the four months of seasonal rains by mid-October. However, the development of low-pressure systems could cause deviations from this timeline. With the monsoon season extending beyond its usual period, Telangana continues to brace for more rainfall. Authorities are on high alert to manage the potential impacts of prolonged rains and ensure the safety of people in the district that receives rainfall in excess and in large excess with focus on the five districts - Mahabubabad, Khammam, Mulugu, Bhadradri Kothagudem and Suryapet wherein cloudbursts wreaked vengeance in the first week of this month.

BRS awaits Speaker's decision on defected MLAs

Party reportedly considering filing similar legal action against seven other turncoats

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has decided to adopt a cautious approach in the wake of the Telangana High Court's directive to the Assembly Speaker regarding the disqualification pleas against three BRS MLAs who defected to the ruling Congress. The court had on September 8 instructed the Speaker to decide on the pleas within four weeks, cautioning that failure to do so would result in the case being reopened suo moto.

The disqualification pleas pertain to MLAs Danam Nagender, Kadiyam Srihari, and Tellam Venkat Rao, who were elected on BRS tickets but later switched allegiance to the Congress. In response to the court's orders, the BRS leadership has chosen to bide its time, awaiting the Speaker's decision on the disqualification petitions. Sources suggest the party is prepared to escalate the matter legally if the ruling is not in their favour. While publicly countering the Congress' tactics to avoid disqualification of the defected MLAs, the BRS is reportedly considering filing similar legal action against seven other defected MLAs. Party insiders indicate that BRS will first await the Speaker's decision on the three initial cases before making any further moves. Should the outcome be unfavourable, the BRS is ready to approach the High Court and, if necessary, the SC.

> "In case of no favourable outcome, we will pursue our options in the Supreme Court
> — BRS LEGAL CELL LEADER

The High Court's ruling came after BRS MLAs KP Vivekananda and Padi Kaushik Reddy, along with BJP MLA A Maheshwar Reddy, filed petitions questioning the inaction of the Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker on the disqualification pleas. The absence of updates on the status of these pleas prompted the court to instruct the Assembly Secretary to place the disqualification files before the Speaker, ensuring a decision is made within four weeks.

"As the HC gave clear instructions with regard to the petitions, the BRS has decided to wait till the deadline is completed. If the Speaker decides to act against the defected MLAs, it will set a precedent for the disqualification of the remaining seven MLAs. If there is no decisive action, the HC will reopen the case suo moto. If he calls for a hearing, but keeps postponing the decision, we can still approach the High Court. In case of no favourable outcome, we will pursue our options in the Supreme Court," a BRS legal cell leader told *Telangana Today*.

Meanwhile, BRS chief K Chandrashekhar Rao reportedly asked the party leaders to leave no stone unturned to expose the duplicity of the Congress at every possible juncture. The BRS leaders were also instructed to aggressively counter the Congress tactics to divert attention from the issue, rather than taking a soft route, especially after the attack on Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy.

Irrigation challenges persist

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Despite receiving 34 per cent above-average rainfall during the southwest monsoon, Telangana continues to face significant irrigation challenges.

Kharif crop area was impacted due to water management issues, and these challenges are expected to persist through Rabi. Designed to irrigate over 18.26 lakh acres across districts, the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme is partially operational due to lack of approval from the NDSA and the State government. Operations from Medigadda barrage have not resumed, limiting the project's full potential. The Sitarama LI Scheme which aims to provide irrigation to Khammam and Bhadradri Kothagudem utilises water from Godavari to irrigate about 2 lakh acres, but it is yet to become operational fully.

Current reservoir levels

KRISHNA BASIN

1. Jurala Project: **9.44 tmc** (Gross capacity: **9.66 tmc**)
2. Srisailam: **210 tmc** (Gross capacity: **215 tmc**)
3. Nagarjuna Sagar Project: **311.5 tmc** (Gross capacity: **312 tmc**)

GODAVARI BASIN

1. Singur: **29.91 tmc** (Gross capacity: **29.47 tmc**)
2. Nizamsagar: **17.80 tmc** (Gross capacity: **17.80 tmc**)
3. Sriramsagar (SRSP): **80.50 tmc** (Gross capacity: **80.50 tmc**)
4. Kaddam: **7.60 tmc** (Gross capacity: **7.62 tmc**)
5. Yellampally: **20.17 tmc** (Gross capacity: **20.18 tmc**)
6. Sammakka Sagar: **6.94 tmc** (Present levels)
7. Sitamma Sagar: **36.57 tmc** (Present Levels)

While the abundant rains have filled reservoirs in both Godavari and Krishna basins, operational challenges persist. Close to 3,000 tmc of water has flowed down the State's projects so far in the two basins, but the State is still in the process of streamlining the supply system and irrigation schedules. The delay in approvals and incomplete project implementations hinder the full utilisation of available water resources.

Jurala, Srisailam and NSP are full to their capacity, promising adequate supplies for the next two seasons, provided resources are effectively managed.

State's history distorted, says Kishan

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy alleged that successive governments refused to officially celebrate the occasion on September 17, due to appeasement and vote bank politics.

Addressing the gathering after hoisting the national flag on the occasion of 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' organised by the Centre on the anniversary of the merger of the erstwhile Hyderabad State with the Indian union on September 17, 1948, at Parade Ground on Tuesday, Kishan Reddy alleged that the previous rulers distorted history to suppress facts about the sacrifices of martyrs and the repression by Nizam and Razakars. Kishan Reddy said though the State government refused to officially celebrate September 17, the Centre took the initiative to celebrate Hyderabad Liberation Day in 2022. Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay said not celebrating the Liberation Day amounted to insulting the sacrifices of the martyrs. The event saw a march-past by Central Armed Police Forces.

Get police vehicles back on roads, KTR to govt

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao rebuked the Congress government for failing to clear pending fuel bills for eight months, leaving many police vehicles across the State non-functional. He cited the recent decision of the petrol bunks association in Godavarikhani to stop supplying fuel to vehicles, as an indication of the dire situation. "Forget about having a fully functional Home Minister and a stable Police Department, even police vehicles are not functioning properly in Telangana," Rama Rao posted on X. He pointed out that this issue is not isolated, but is prevalent across Telangana. He urged the State government to resolve the issue at the earliest. "If you can't bring back State's law and order situation on track, at least get the police vehicles back on the roads," he demanded.

PRAJA PALANA: STUDENTS BEAR THE BRUNT

Following poor response to Congress party's Praja Palana programme, students were mobilised and transported in auto trolleys and DCM vans in Mahabubabad on Tuesday.

Row over statue: BRS cadre stage State-wide protests

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The BRS cadre performed 'palabhishekam' to statues and portraits of Telangana Talli in the headquarters of all districts, mandals and constituencies on Tuesday, protesting against the Congress government's installation of a statue of Rajiv Gandhi in front of the Secretariat.

They also staged demonstrations, demanding the Congress government to replace Rajiv Gandhi's statue with the Telangana Talli as originally planned.

At Telangana Bhavan, apart from BRS working president KT Rama Rao, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council S Madhusudan Chari, former Ministers V Srinivas Goud, G Jagadish Reddy, Ch Malla Reddy and Gangula Kamalakar, MLAs Kaleru Venkatesh, Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, and former MP Malothu Kavitha paid floral tributes to Telangana Talli.

Former Ministers T Harish Rao, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, S Niranjan Reddy and other senior leaders also performed 'palabhishekam' to the statue of Telangana Talli and joined protests in their respective constituencies. Several Telangana activists and BRS supporters joined the protests staged by the BRS cadre across the State and strongly opposed the Congress government's decision. They questioned why Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and other Congress leaders did not install the statue of Rajiv Gandhi at the TPCC headquarters in Gandhi Bhavan till date, if they respected him.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao performing 'palabhishekam' to the Telangana Talli statue in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

'Revanth projecting State in bad light'

STATE BUREAU
Medak

Former Minister T Harish Rao said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy came to power making his lies as a base since he had made several false promises which he could not implement until now. The Chief Minister was continuing to repeat the same lies even 10 months after coming to power, he said.

Citing Revanth's statement on the loans borrowed during the BRS regime, Rao said the BRS government had borrowed just Rs 4.26 lakh crore, but Revanth said time and again that the BRS government had borrowed Rs 6.85 lakh crore.

Speaking to news reporters in Medak on Tuesday, Harish Rao said Revanth Reddy had however taken the figure to over Rs 7 lakh crore during the Praja Palana programme organised on the occasion of September 17. Though he had clarified to everyone in the Assembly on the loans borrowed by the BRS government, Revanth Reddy continued to spread lies.

T Harish Rao addressing mediapersons on Tuesday.

Rao lashed out at the Chief Minister for projecting the State in bad light in a bid to malign the BRS for political gains.

Don't derive political mileage from TG armed struggle: CM

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Says State government observed that it was wrong to ignore the sacrifices of Telangana martyrs by calling September 17 Integration Day or Liberation Day

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the government had decided to celebrate September 17 as 'Praja Palana Dinotsavam' after careful thought and that it would be foolish if anyone tried to derive political mileage from the Telangana armed struggle. There were differences of opinion on defining the auspicious day. While, some called it Integration Day, others celebrated it as Liberation Day. The State government observed that it was wrong to act in such a way as to ignore the sacrifices of Telangana martyrs of yesteryear by calling it Integration Day or Liberation Day, he said at the 'Praja Palana Dinotsavam' programme here on Tuesday. "The State government linked the historical day to people and called it Praja Palana Dinotsavam," Revanth said.

Stating that the government was trying to do its best to improve the financial situation through debt restructuring, the Chief Minister said he had visited Delhi many times to get Central funds. "I met the Prime Minister and others but some political forces are criticising my Delhi tours. I am not going to Delhi for my personal work. Delhi is not in Pakistan or Bangladesh," he said. "It is our right to seek the State's share from the taxes. I will go to Delhi many times to claim the State's share. Strong arguments were made before the 16th Finance Commission for more funds and 50 per cent share in Central taxes," he said. Stating that the government was setting up a 'Pravasi Prajavani Kendra' in Praja Bhavan as part of Prajavani to address the grievances of Gulf workers and also Telangana citizens working in other countries quickly, he said a committee to study the plights of the Gulf workers and prepare long-term plans would also be set up.

Telangana Today
FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

"We were able to improve the balance to 40 per cent women and 60 per cent men. And it shows that — as much as we have achieved — there is still so much more work to do

URSULA VON DER LEYEN
European Union chief

Bulldozer can't be justice. Bulldozer was unconstitutional. I thank SC for this direction that has stopped bulldozers. CM, UP govt and people of the BJP glorified 'bulldozer' as if this is justice

AKHILESH YADAV
Samajwadi Party chief

Only a free and fair election can ensure the political empowerment of the people. Reforms must be made in the Election Commission, public administration and security agencies"

TARIQUE RAHMAN
BNP's acting chairman

Boost for basmati farmers

Basmati — the premium long-grain rice variety famed for its aroma — is uniquely Indian and consistently enjoys dominance in the international consumer market. India is the world's largest basmati producer — 6.5 million tonnes annually — and exports around 5 million tonnes yearly, primarily to the European, Middle-Eastern and North American markets. The Centre's recent decision to do away with the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for basmati rice is a welcome move as it provides much-needed relief to the farmers and will help boost the country's share in the global premium rice market. Basmati farmers have been grappling with rising production costs and debts on the one hand and growing competitiveness in the international markets on the other. They have been demanding the easing of the floor price restrictions so that they can compete in the international markets more effectively. Last year, the Centre set an MEP of $1,200 a tonne and later cut it to $950 a tonne. As supplies picked up since then, exporters urged the government to either cut or remove the MEP to ensure farmers do not get saddled with large stocks when the new crop arrives in a month. The decision to remove the MEP will help India export basmati rice in large quantities and ensure good returns to farmers. The move also marks a significant shift in the country's agricultural and export strategy. As the new basmati crop season approaches, this timely policy adjustment could be a game-changer for both exporters and farmers.

> The decision to remove MEP will help India export basmati rice in large quantities and ensure good returns to farmers

Historically, India has set a floor price for basmati rice exports to ensure premium pricing in international markets. However, the previous floor prices placed Indian exporters at a disadvantage in a highly competitive global market. With Pakistan as the only other major producer of basmati rice, the price floor restricted India's ability to compete effectively on price, particularly in key markets such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Europe. The removal of the MEP addresses this issue directly, allowing India to export basmati rice at more competitive rates. Without the burden of surplus stocks from the previous season, farmers can now expect smoother sales and better prices for their produce. The timing is particularly important because farmers have been dealing with increased input costs, especially for fuel and fertilizers, which have eaten into their profits. India's decision also reflects a larger strategy to regain its share in the international basmati market. The country has long held a dominant position in the premium rice sector, thanks to the unique qualities of its basmati varieties. However, price constraints have limited its ability to capitalise on global demand fully. By eliminating the MEP, India can now cater to a broader range of buyers, particularly those seeking more affordable basmati varieties priced at around $700 per tonne.

If Kafka endured today's wars

Embracing life-sustaining hope alone can guide us to end suffering — the message Kafka conveys

B MARIA KUMAR

I often find myself visiting Necklace Mall in Secunderabad, a popular hangout just a stone's throw from my home. I don't go there for the typical shopping spree or to be part of the bustling crowd, but rather for the simple pleasure of sitting quietly in a solitary corner, enjoying a warm cup of filter coffee. It was during one of these serene pauses, seated in my usual spot, that I began recalling something peculiar.

The land where this modern mall and its adjoining complex stand today was once the site of a well-known cluster of machine-making workshops. They were part of Praga Tools, a public sector undertaking I've been familiar with for decades. The memory of that iconic industrial hub, though relocated to a different place now, struck me as fascinating, specifically as I thought about how much the landscape has changed over time.

World of Franz Kafka

The mention of Praga Tools reminded me of another company with the same name, Praga Cars, based in Prague. The connection between these two names sent my rumination wandering to the mysterious world of Franz Kafka, the literary giant who lived almost his entire life a century ago in the capital of the Czech Republic. Kafka, whose works remain some of the most intriguing stories ever told, grew up, worked, loved and wrote in that city, leaving behind a legacy forever tied to Prague's identity.

This contemplation of Kafka's life made me realise that, just like many of us, he endured turbulent times. He survived the Spanish Flu, the devastating pandemic of his era, much like we've navigated Covid-19. Moreover, he lived through World War I, bearing witness to the calamities of deadly battles, much like the ongoing violent warfare in Eastern Europe and the Middle East today, where innocent lives are caught in endless cycles of tragedy with no end in sight.

It is heartening to learn that Prague, the city of Kafka, has been hosting year-long commemorative activities in his honour, marking 2024 as the centenary of his death. Kafka, who passed away in June 1924 at the age of 41 due to illness, left behind an extraordinary scholarly heritage.

The range of storylines he explored at such a young age continues to baffle not only intellectuals but also people of ordinary talent. His tales, which span themes from simple social settings to complex psychological and metaphysical dilemmas, captivate readers and compel them to confront existential uncertainties. Kafka's work stirs the mind, prompting us to search for solutions to crises that we feel are both personal and universal.

Present Crisis

It would be a challenging question to envision how Kafka might have discerned the present volatile circumstances if he were living through today's active wartime. The conflict in Eastern Europe, now over two years old, and the one in the Middle East, which started almost a year ago, have both evolved, not only escalating survival unknowns in these regions but also amplifying global tensions related to food, energy, trade and other techno-economic disruptions. With hundreds of thousands killed, millions displaced, thousands left hungry and sick, and survivors experiencing profound disillusionment, Kafka might have seen the absurdity of these wars mirrored in his own narratives.

For example, wars have pushed countless innocents into poverty and despair, much like Gregor Samsa in 'The Metamorphosis', who, after transforming into an insect, is abandoned by society and his own family, cast aside to fend for himself, isolated and unloved. Similarly, Kafka's story, 'A Country Doctor' speaks about the struggles of healthcare workers today, doctors who want to help the wounded soldiers and civilians but are overwhelmed by factors out of their reach. Much like Rosa, the doctor's assistant, many war victims find themselves vulnerable, unprotected and powerless under the weight of unbearable misfortune.

> Many of today's war-stricken people endure similar hardships against faceless institutions, trapped in situations they never chose, just like Kafka's personae

Some innocent civilians, like Josef K in 'The Trial', undergo arbitrary harassment and persecution in vague systems of authority. They meet unfortunate destinies at the whims of bureaucratic forces, similar to what we see in the present conflicts where civilians suffer under the unpredictability of war and indifferent military officials. And then there is K, the protagonist in 'The Castle', who toils endlessly against an unresponsive administrative machinery, only to be subjected to loneliness and failure. Many of today's war-stricken people endure similar hardships against faceless institutions, trapped in situations they never chose, just like Kafka's personae, who find themselves defenceless.

Sweetness of Existence

Kafka and his friend, and literary executor, Max Brod, often mused on the sweetness of existence before the war, as the latter noted in his writings. The war, Kafka believed, had invaded everyone's life, casting a shadow of pain and disruption. Kafka frequently wondered if it was a form of guilt to be born into such a troubled world.

In one of his conversations with Brod, he confessed, "There is an infinite amount of hope in the universe, but not for us". By saying "not for us", Kafka employed biting sarcasm, implying that while hope is abundant, it feels frustratingly inaccessible. However, the deeper meaning in his words was that everyone should continue striving for hope as it is essential for creating a better life.

Modern psychological research also points out the critical importance of hope, particularly during periods of harsh tribulations. Jamil Zaki, a professor of psychology at Stanford University, explores this concept in his latest book, released in the first week of September 2024, coining the term "hopeful skepticism." He argues that those who maintain a balance between hope and scepticism are better equipped to navigate challenging situations.

Additionally, in a research paper published in the August 2024 issue of the journal 'Stress and Health', authors Kristin Scott, Sharon Sheridan, Emily Ferrise and Tom Zagenczyk found that hope can motivate individuals to seek improvements in their lives, rather than passively accepting the crippling adversities. And ultimately, this is the message that Kafka conveys through his ideas and intricate plots, highlighting the significance of embracing life-sustaining hope, which alone can confidently guide us to move forward devising ways and methods to end suffering and usher in a brighter future.

(The author, IPS (Retd), is a winner of National Rajbhasha Gaurav Award for 2022-23)

Letters to the Editor

Hilsa diplomacy

The decision of the interim government in Bangladesh to impose a ban on the export of 'Padma Ilish' has come as a dampener for food aficionados in Bengal during the festive season. The days of 'Hilsa diplomacy', under which the erstwhile Bangladesh government would lift the ban during Durga Puja in anticipation of an early resolution of the Teesta imbroglio, seem to have finally come to an end. Food connoisseurs will no longer be able to savour the exotic flavour of 'Padma Hilsa' steamed with mustard paste or the fried variant with a light coating of spices. Kolkata is always rife with animated discussions about the relative merits of the Ganga and Padma Hilsas with the celebrated Bengali litterateur Sunil Gangopadhyay according the pride of place to the Padma variant. During the last eight decades, fierce Maidan rivalry between the soccer giants East Bengal and Mohun Bagan has spilled over to a culinary clash of a delectable array of preparations with the prized Hilsa and jumbo-sized prawns being appropriated as the respective unofficial mascots by the two sides. Although the ban has been justified by the Bangladesh government to meet the surging domestic demand, one hopes that this is not an adverse fallout of Dhaka's growing anti-India stance.

AMIT BANERJEE, New Delhi

Write to us at letters@telanganatoday.com

Cartoon Today

India in the hotspot

■ BBC

German who helped build Jamia

In Delhi, a tombstone stands out. It has an inscription in Urdu, but beneath it lies the name of a German-born Jewish woman — Gerda Philipsborn. This is unusual as the graves of the founders of Jamia Millia Islamia rest here.

■ The Washington Post

The hidden value of vultures

The Indian vulture collapse is one of the fastest declines of any bird in history, rivaled only by the intentional mass killing of sparrows during Mao Zedong's "Four Pests" campaign in the late 1950s.

■ The Straits Times

India to conduct census soon

India will conduct its much-delayed national census soon, Minister Amit Shah said, after a delay of about three years. The survey was due in 2021 but was delayed by the pandemic and technical and logistical hurdles.

Printed and Published by **Damodar Rao Divakonda**, on behalf of Telangana Publications Pvt. Ltd., Printed At Telangana Publications Pvt Ltd, H.Nos. 9-87/3, 9-87/3/1, Thumkunta Muncipality, Dist. Medchal-500078.
Published at Telangana Publications Pvt. Ltd, #8-2-603/1/7,8,9, Krishnapuram, Road No. 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034, Telangana State. Editor: **Koothuru Sreenivas Reddy**. Ph: +91 40 2329 1999, Toll Free: 1800 425 3666. RNI No. TELENG/2016/70426.

'Govt firm on lasting peace in Manipur'

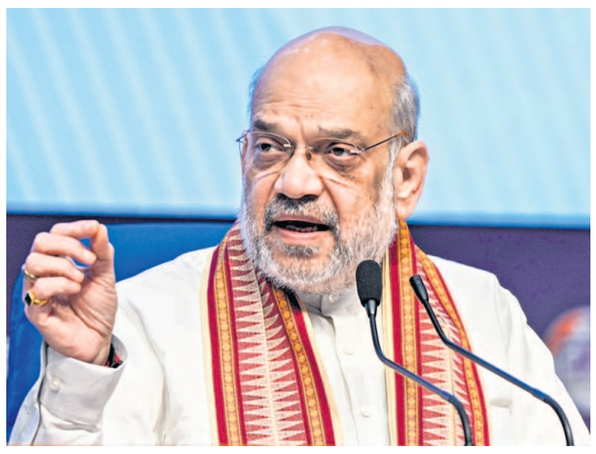
Shah says govt is talking to both the Meitei and Kuki communities

PTI
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the government is talking to both the Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur to ensure lasting peace and has begun fencing the country's border with Myanmar to check infiltration.

Addressing a press conference here on the achievements of the 100 days of the Modi 3.0 government, Shah said barring three days of violence last week, the overall situation in Manipur has been calm and the government has been working to restore peace in the restive Northeastern State. Shah, flanked by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, said apart from the three days of violence, no major incidents were reported in the last three months. "There was peace in the last three days and I am hopeful that we will be able to control the situation. We are talking to both communities. It was ethnic violence and unless there is dialogue between the two communities, no solution could be found. "We are talking to the Kuki and Meitei groups. We have prepared a roadmap and will take all possible steps (to ensure peace)," he said.

Shah said the government has completed the deployment of Central Reserve Police Force personnel at strategic locations across Manipur. He said in the first 100 days of the Modi 3.0 government, work on fencing the India-Myanmar border, which is the root cause of the problem, has begun. "Fencing work in 30 km has been completed. Besides the government of India has approved the budget for fencing along the over 1,500 km border," he said.


Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah

The Home Minister said the government has already scrapped the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows people residing close to the border between the two countries to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents. "To check the infiltration, we have ended the special arrangement (FMR) with Myanmar under which free movement of the people of both countries was allowed. Now people can cross into each other's territory only with a visa. We brought a law in this regard," he said.

Shah said the government has also ended the security lapses which existed earlier along the international border. The 1,643 km long India-Myanmar border, which passes through Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, had the FMR that was implemented in 2018 as part of India's Act East policy. The Home Minister said the government has decided to open 16 new Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandars in Manipur to provide essential commodities to the common people at reasonable prices, in addition to the 21 that already existed.

Waqf Bill to preserve properties, Parl to pass it soon

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was committed to the management and preservation of Waqf properties and would be passed in Parliament in the coming days.

Shah said the bill would also prevent the misuse of Waqf properties. The Waqf Bill was introduced in the LS last month and referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament for further examination after opposition raised strong objections to certain provisions of the draft law. A government official said the Bill was aimed at reducing conflicts and disputes. It also has provisions for setting up of a digital platform for online registration and monitoring of Waqf properties. PTI

Shah lists Modi 3.0 schemes for middle class

NEW DELHI: Metro projects worth Rs 30,700 crore were approved in the first 100 days of the Narendra Modi government to enhance connectivity and reduce travel time, union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference on the achievements of the Modi government in its third tenure, Shah said 12 industrial corridors with an investment of Rs 28,600 crore have been approved to give a boost to India's journey of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

Shah, flanked by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, said the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act has been implemented by the government for transparency in recruitment. "Metro projects worth Rs 30,700 crore in Pune, Thane and Bengaluru will enhance connectivity and reduce travel time," he said, listing the works initiated for "empowering the middle class".

The Home Minister said the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) was launched at Delhi's IGI Airport to ensure hassle-free travel. Under the FTI-TTP, eligible passengers will be allowed to utilise e-gates and bypass regular immigration queues for a seamless journey. Eligible individuals will need to apply online and submit their biometrics (fingerprint and facial image) along with other required information as specified in the application form. PTI

'Simultaneous polls planned for current tenure'

NEW DELHI: Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the BJP-led NDA government will implement the 'one nation, one election' within its current tenure.

"The nation has to come forward for 'one nation, one election'," Modi had said in his address from the ramparts of the Red Fort. One nation, one election is one of the key promises made by the BJP in its manifesto. A high-level panel headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind in March this year recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.

Separately, the Law Commission is likely to recommend holding simultaneous polls for all three tiers of government — Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies like municipalities and panchayats starting in 2029 and a provision for a unity government in cases such as a hung house or when a no-confidence motion is passed. The Kovind panel has not specified any period for rolling out simultaneous polls. It has proposed the creation of an 'Implementation Group' to look into the execution of the panel's recommendations. PTI

Will work to bring back Kejriwal: Atishi

AAP legislative party leader Atishi with Arvind Kejriwal meets Lt Governor VK Saxena, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

NEW DELHI

In her first remarks after being designated the next Chief Minister of Delhi, senior AAP leader Atishi on Tuesday said she was sad that party supremo Arvind Kejriwal was resigning from the post, and added that she will work towards bringing him back as CM.

Atishi, who currently holds several portfolios in the Delhi government, said only a party like Aam Aadmi Party would have given a "first-time politician" like her such responsibilities. The Aam Aadmi Party said Kejriwal proposed her name as his successor in a meeting of the party's legislators, to which all MLAs unanimously agreed.

"I will work with one goal for the next few months to bring back Kejriwal's CM's post. I will work as Chief Minister under Arvind Kejriwal's guidance and protect the people of Delhi," Atishi said. She requested her party MLAs to not congratulate her as it was a "sad occasion". "Kejriwal trusted me, made me an MLA, then a minister and now chief minister. I am thankful to him. A first-time politician can only get such opportunities in AAP. Had I been in some other party, I wouldn't even have got a ticket to contest polls," she added. Kejriwal will meet Lt Governor V K Saxena at Raj Niwas at 4.30 pm to tender his resignation as chief minister, paving the way for Atishi's appointment as his successor.

Atishi said his resignation was unparalleled in the country's history, and added that she will work for the next few months with the goal of bringing back Kejriwal as CM. PTI

From advisor to CM-designate

NEW DELHI

From being an adviser to the Delhi government to becoming a key face of the Cabinet in the absence of senior AAP leaders, Chief Minister-designate Atishi's ascent in the party and government is believed to be "phenomenal" and "meteoric".

Atishi, 43, who holds the highest number of portfolios in the Delhi government, will also hold the distinction of being only the third woman after Sushma Swaraj and Sheila Dikshit to become the chief minister of the national capital.

She was unanimously chosen as Chief Minister designate during the legislature party meeting here on Tuesday. In her first remarks after being chosen to replace Kejriwal, she thanked him and called him her elder brother. PTI

In Brief

ITANAGAR

Militant surrenders

A militant belonging to the Khaplang faction of the banned outfit National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-K) surrendered before Assam Rifles in Arunachal Pradesh's Tirap district. Azen Wangsu (49), a self-styled 'major' in the outfit, laid down his arms before the Khonsa battalion of Assam Rifles, he said. Wangsu, who hails from Niausa village in Longding district, had been in the outfit for the last 12 years. Acting on a tip-off that Wangsu was in Myanmar, Assam Rifles initiated contact with him through his family, encouraging him to surrender, the officer said. PTI

BARIPADA

Two students drown

Two school students drowned during the immersion of an idol of Lord Vishwakarma idol in a waterbody in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on Tuesday, police said. The incident happened at the reservoir of a dam near Kathpal village in the Betnoti police station area, they said. The deceased were identified as Thakur Soren (18) and Bhagyaprakash Patra (18). Eight class 12 students went to immerse idol, and two of them slipped and drowned. A case of unnatural death was registered and the bodies were sent to the Hospital in Baripada for post-mortem examinations. PTI

Bengal govt removes Health, Medical Education Directors

Order issued following the meeting between Mamata and agitating junior doctors

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government on Tuesday removed Dr Kaustav Nayak and Dr Debasish Halder from the position of Director of Medical Education and the Director of Health Services respectively.

The order was issued following the meeting between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and agitating junior doctors on Monday night when Banerjee had promised to remove Nayak and Halder from their positions. Dr Swapan Soren was appointed the new in-charge director of health services and Dr Suparna Dutta officer on special duty of medical education, it added.

Nayak was appointed the Director of the Institute of Health and Family Welfare while Halder was posted as the officer on special duty of Public health at Swasthya Bhawan.

Junior doctors, who are on 'cease work' protesting for the last 39 days, have been demanding the removal of the Director of Health Services, Director of Medical Education and the Health secretary for their alleged involvement in corruption in the State health sector. PTI

CBI status report "disturbing": SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it was disturbed by the findings given in a status report filed by the CBI in the rape and murder of trainee doctor at R G Kar government hospital in Kolkata but refused to divulge the details, saying any disclosure may jeopardise the ongoing investigation.

Seeking a status report from the CBI on its probe into financial irregularities allegedly committed by jailed former principal of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh, the top court, referring to the rape and murder case, said the agency is not "sleeping over" the investigation and it needs to be given time to "unearth the truth." "What the CBI has revealed in the report is disturbing. What you are flagging is of utmost concern. We ourselves are concerned, CBI has flagged it for us. We are ourselves disturbed by what we have read," the top court told a lawyer who claimed discrepancies in the seizure list and sketch of the crime scene. A Bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also asked the protesting junior doctors in West Bengal to resume work and recorded the assurance from the state government that it will not take any adverse or punitive action against them.

Taking note of a letter written by the father of the deceased, the top court directed that the "valuable" inputs furnished by him should be duly considered by the investigating officer. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, assured the court that the investigating agency will maintain contact with the parents of the deceased junior doctor and keep them informed about the ongoing probe to assuage their genuine concerns. As the hearing commenced, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the West Bengal government, sought stopping of the live proceedings in the case. He alleged that women lawyers working in his chamber were facing threats of acid attacks and rape. PTI

Birthday wishes pour in for Modi

NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned 74 on Tuesday, leaders from across party lines extended their birthday greeting to him. Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge took to X to wish the PM: Best wishes to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji on his birthday. May he be blessed with good health and long life.

National President of the Bahujan Samaj Party, Mayawati, also shared her wishes for the PM. Her post on X translates as: Hearty congratulations to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on his birthday today and best wishes for his long life. IANS

Mumbai Bids Adieu To Ganesha

Devotees carry idols of Lord Ganesha for immersion at the end of the Ganesh festival, in Mumbai on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

Juvenile accused treated 'too leniently': HC

INDORE

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has observed that juveniles were being treated "rather too leniently" in the country and that the legislature has "not learnt any lessons" from the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape case.

In an order passed on September 11, Justice Subodh Abhyankar of the high court's Indore bench made these strongly-worded observations while dismissing an appeal filed by a man against the lower court's sentence in the case of a four-year-old girl's rape in 2017. The convict was 17 years old at the time of the rape incident in 2017. He escaped from a juvenile correction home in 2019 along with seven other boys, six months after being sentenced.

Expressing displeasure over this development, the high court said, "As a parting note, this Court is once again at pains to observe that juveniles in this country are being treated rather too leniently and that the Legislature, to the utter misfortune of the victims of such crimes, has still not learnt any lessons from the horrors of Nirbhaya, reported as (2017) 6 SCC 1 (Mukesh v. State NCT of Delhi)." "Looking at the overwhelming medical evidence available in the present case, it does not take an expert to see how demonic the appellant's conduct was while he was a juvenile, and his mindset can also be gathered from the fact that he has also absconded from the observation home. He is presently at large, probably lurking in some dark corner of the street, for yet another prey, and there is nobody to stop him," the court observed.

"And, although such voices are being raised time and again by the Constitutional Courts of this country, to the utter dismay of the victims, they have not been able to make an impact on the legislature even after a decade of Nirbhaya which took place in the year 2012," it said. "Let a copy of this order be sent to the Law Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi", the court said. PTI

Kharge promises J&K statehood

NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said his party guarantees the rights of Jammu and Kashmir and will ensure it gets back the status of a full-fledged State.

Tagging screenshots of the seven guarantees promised by the Congress ahead of the Assembly elections, Kharge said in a post on X that the party would "give new energy to the youth" by filling one lakh government jobs. PTI

In Brief

MEDAK

3 PHC staff suspended

Collector Rahul Raj suspended three employees of a primary health centre (PHC) in Kowdipally on Tuesday. Following complaints, the Collector made a surprise visit to the PHC and found the three employees, Ahmad Shakeel, Radhakrishna and Ramesh, absent from duties, but they had signed in the attendance register. After preliminary inquiry, Rahul Raj directed District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr Sriram to suspend them from duties with immediate effect. Raj also served notices on the health officer at the hospital for being negligent in discharging duties.

'Container school' for tribal children

First 'container school' for tribal children set up

STATE BUREAU
Mulugu

After setting up a prefabricated health sub-centre, popular as container hospital, for providing emergency medical treatment to people living in the remote agency area of Pocharam in Bandhala gram panchayat of Tadvai mandal, the district administration launched a 'container school' for tribal children of Bangarupalli thanda situated in the forest area of Kannaigudem mandal of the district on Tuesday. Panchayati Raj Minister Danasari Anasuya inaugurated the Container School. Since the forest rules do not allow permanent structures in the forest areas, the government decided to set up a container school to help tribal children continue their studies, the Minister said, adding that two or three more such schools would be set up in the coming days.

The container school at Bangarupalli thanda in Mulugu district.

Sources say the children of the tribal communities residing in the Bangarupalli thanda were studying in huts as the forest rules do not allow permanent structures in the forest areas. Realising the difficulties being faced by tribal children, Collector T S Divakara sanctioned Rs 13.50 lakh for the construction of the container school. This is the first instance of a government school being established in a container in the State.

The container school is 25 feet wide and 25 feet long. It has space for up to 12 dual desks and 3 chairs for principal and teachers. Although container shops and houses are being built in the State, this is the first time that it has been converted into a government school. "The container classroom is an initiative taken up under the guidance of the Minister. This will go a long way in resolving issues related to non-availability of permanent school buildings, especially in the remote areas," he observed.

According to officials, the container classroom could be taken to remote areas and villages, especially where construction of buildings for skilling was not feasible. Container classrooms were a cost effective, scalable, and flexible option to create additional space for students — both permanently or as a temporary solution. Mahabubabad MP P Balram Naik, MLC Narsireddy and senior officials were present.

Vermilion found in front of houses, cops begin probe

STATE BUREAU
JAGTIAL

The presence of vermilion in front of a few houses and on motorcycles belonging to a particular community in Rahmatpura locality of Jagtial town on Tuesday morning triggered doubts of attempts to trigger communal tension.

Since the Ganesh idol processions were taken out in the town on Monday, it is also suspected that the vermilion could have accidentally fallen in the area.

Local people informed the police, who inspected the area and began an investigation by filing an First Information Report (FIR).

Jagtial Sub-Divisional Police officer Raghu Chander said local people found the vermilion in front of their houses as well as on motorcycles in the morning. Knowing about the incident, the police teams reached the spot, cleared the substance, and began an investigation, he said.

> Local people found the vermilion in front of their houses as well as on motorcycles in the morning

Reacting to the incident, AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi posted a message on X asking the district Superintendent of Police to take strong legal action against anti-social elements who tried to create a nuisance in Rahmatpura.

Asad thanks locals

He thanked the local people for showing patience and maintaining peace. Responding to the MP's tweet, Jagtial Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar replied that a First Information Report (FIR) was filed in the Jagtial town police station. Investigation was currently in progress, the Superintendent of Police said.

Man gets jail for misbehaving with minor girl

STATE BUREAU
Kumram Bheem Asifabad

An Asifabad court on Tuesday sentenced a man to five years of imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 12,000 after convicting him of misbehaving with a minor girl four years ago.

Kumram Bheem Asifabad district sessions court judge M V Ramesh delivered the judgement, awarding the term and fine against Durva Bhaskar from Dimda village in Chintalamanepalli mandal after finding him guilty for misbehaving with the minor girl. Bhaskar was booked for allegedly touching the girl inappropriately by showing some obscene clips on his mobile phone when her parents were not present in her residence in November 2020.

Superintendent of Police D V Srinivas Rao commended Kagaznagar DSP Ramanujam, Koutala Inspector Ramesh, Chintalamanepalli Sub-Inspector Naresh and court duty officer Balaji for getting the court's conviction in the case.

Internet for all villages soon: Minister

STATE BUREAU
KARIMNAGAR

IT Minister D Sridhar Babu said internet facility would be provided to each and every village in the State. It is going to be implemented on a pilot basis in three villages including Sangupeta of Sangareddy district, Maddur of Narayanpet and Adavisrirampur of Peddapalli district, he said. Besides internet, cable TV services, computer connectivity, 20 MBPS data to mobile phones would also be provided through optic fiber cable. CCTV cameras would also be setup in villages by utilising 360-degree AI.

Traders default on rents in Mancherial

Civic officials yet to recover Rs 2 crore from several shopkeepers

SANTOSH PADALA
Mancherial

Rentals amounting to Rs 2 crore from shopping complexes belonging to the Mancherial municipality have been pending for quite a long time.

Mancherial municipality has 55 shops in different parts of the town with variations in rents. Tenders were invited to rent out shops on a basis of charge for 10 months. Traders who were allotted the shops in the tendering process should pay rent every month as per the norms of the civic body. However, rents were not paid regularly, affecting the income of the municipality.

A shopping complex belonging to the Mancherial muncipality. The municipality has allotted shops to several traders after a tendering process.

Officials said that rents from shops amounting to around Rs 1.85 crore were yet to be cleared. An educational institution, which hired a floor of the shopping complex, owes Rs 61.33 lakh till August. Tenants who occupied shops classified as 'A' type need to pay arrears of Rs 23.10 lakh, while shops categorised as 'B' type account for arrears amounting to Rs 43.56 lakh. The authorised tenants are making a fast buck by allegedly renting out the shops to other traders. They are collecting the rent from the occupants of the shops, but not paying it to the municipality. They are reportedly using the funds for their personal needs and intentionally not showing any interest in clearing the arrears. "The tenants are earning a huge income by renting out the shops to others. They are not responding to notices issued by the officials of the civic body over the delay in payment of rent. The officials are focused on collecting property tax rather than rent from shopping complexes. As a result, earnings of the municipality are declining," a councillor said.

When asked, Municipal Commissioner A Maruthi Prasad said a section of tenants paid rents after the municipality exerted pressure. Still, a majority of the tenants have to clear dues. A three-member committee was formed to collect rents from the legal renters. No other duties were assigned to these staffers who were members of the committee.

BREAKING RULES

- The authorised tenants are making a fast buck by allegedly renting out shops to other traders
- Mancherial municipality has **55 shops** in different parts of the town
- Rents from shops amounting to around **Rs 1.85 crore** yet to be cleared
- An educational institution which hired a floor owes **Rs 61.33 lakh** till August
- Tenants in shops classified as 'A' type owe **Rs 23.10 lakh** and those from type 'B' owe **Rs 43.56 lakh**

> "The tenants are earning a huge income by renting out the shops to others. They are not responding to notices issued by civic officials over delay in payment of rent
> — Municipal Councillor

FIITJEE test series

HYDERABAD: FIITJEE, a coaching institute for JEE, Olympiads, and other competitive & scholastic exams preparation, announced its all India test series for Olympiads, designed to recognise and support young talents with the potential to succeed in various Olympiads.

To register, visit the link https://admissiontest.fiitjee.com/FIITJEE-Olympiad-Scholarship-Test/RegOlympiad.aspx.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHIKKULLA SWAMY W/o. CHIKKULLA MANJULA, R/o 11-20-1/347, SURYA SAROJA APTS, HUDA COMPLEX, SAROORNAGAR, RANGA REDDY-500035. CHANGED MY WIFE NAME AS CHIKKULLA MANJULA INSTEAD OF CHIKKULLA MANGULA [TT-11402]

I, Garivendula prasad S/o. G. laxmaiah R/o. 9-63/1, Govardhanagiri (V), Raghunathpally (M), JANAGAON (D), Telangana.. Changed my name as **GARVANDULA PRASAD** [TT-11300]

I, Shilpa Ranga, W/o: Gaddamedi Narender, R/o: 8-70, Sai Nagar Colony, Peerzadiguda Medipalli, Hyderabad - 500098, Have Changed My Name As **Shilpa Gaddamedi.** [TT-8113]

I, Narender Gaddamedi alias Narender Gaddamedi Goud, S/o: Gaddamidi Mallesham, R/o: 8-70, Sai Nagar Colony, Peerzadiguda Medipalli, Hyderabad-500098, Have Changed My Name As **Narender Gaddamedi** [TT-8113]

I, SHAIK ABDUR RAHIM R/o. 18-10-38/F/15/B, BARKAS HYD -TS. Changed My Name As **SHAIK ABDUL RAHEEM** S/o. SHAIK ABDUR RAZZAK. [TT-8113]

I, MADHU R/o. HNo.12-40, V R Colony, UNDAVELLY, JOGULAMBA GADWAL- 509153, TS, Changed my name as **SANDYAPOGULA MADHU** S/o. Sandyapogula Hussainaiah [TT-8113]

I, HUSSAIN R/o. HNo.12-40, V R Colony, UNDAVELLY, JOGULAMBA GADWAL-509153, TS, Changed my name as **SANDYAPOGULA HUSSAINAIAH** S/o. S.Balaramudu [TT-8113]

I, Shylaja Nagendra Prasad R/o. Villa No. 517 My Home ankura tellapur Cyberabad T.S. changed My Minor Child name From Avani Prasad Jain to **AVANI JAIN** [TT-8113]

I, PADAKANTI KRISHNA MURALI R/o. 1-34/4, THIPPANNAPETA, JAGITYAL, TS. Have changed my name as **PADAKANTI MURALI** S/o. PADAKANTI NARAYANA. [TT-8114]

I, MUSTAFA MASOOD AHMED S/o. Masood Ahmed, R/o. H.no: 9-3-58/B/26, Morine Bakery, Ahmed Colony, Langer House, Golconda, Hyderabad, T.S. Changed My name as **MOHD MUSTAFA MASOOD AHMED.** [TT-8114]

I, JITTABOINA NALLA KONDAIAH R/o. 3-28, AITHPALLI, PEGADAPALLI, JAGITYAL, TS. Have changed my name as **JITTABOINA KONDAIAH** S/o. JITTABOINA NARSAIAH. [TT-8114]

I, AMTUL WAHEED W/o Syed Sattar Shah R/o: 8-2-131/54 Mailardevpally, Pallecheru, Keshogiri, Cyberabad, Rajendranagar (TG) Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known **WAHEDA SHAH.** [TT-8114]

I, MOHAMMED NAEEM UDDIN S/o Mohammed Sharf Uddin R/o: 8-14-144/6, Rizwan Colony, Shastripuram, Rajendranagar, K.V Rangareddy, T.S Has Changed My Name as **MOHAMMED NAYEEM UDDIN** [TT-8114]

I, NASREEN BEGUM, R/o. 22-7-529/1, Mir Alam Mandi, Kamarle Arguing Palace, Charminar, Hyd-500002TS. Change My Name As **"NASEEM BEGUM,** W/o. MOHAMMED RAZA." [TT-8114]

I, FARHATH REHANA ZAHEDA, R/o. HNo. 20-4-934, KHILWATH Charminar Hyd-T.S. 500002, I have changed my name to **FARHATH REHANA ZAHIDA** W/o. SYED SHAH MUJEEB ULLAH HUSSAINI. [TT-8114]

I, THADOORI NARASAIAH R/o. Hno 4-06, Kochaguttapally, Chinmakodur, Siddipet-502276, TS. Changed my name as **THADURI NARSAIAH** S/o. Thaduri Lingaiah [TT-8114]

LOST

I, BAPANAPALLI RAVI THEJA, S/o. Bapanapalli Srinivasa Rao, R/o. H.No.B3-3, Flat No.102. MMTS Road, Huda Colony, Chanda Nagar, Serilingampally Mandal, R.R TS- 500050. have obtained PASSPORT bearing No.G7052770, issued on 17-01-2008 by the Passport Authorities, Hyderabad, has been lost by me while I was travelling from Huda Colony to Lingampally by auto, if anybody Found pls **Contact -93200 73888** [TT-8113]

NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns Telangana Publications Pvt. Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Telangana Publications Pvt. Ltd. Shall not be held responsible / liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.

PUBLIC NOTICE

on behalf of my Client Nilesh Agarwal the general public as well as financial institutions are hereby informed that my client intends to Purchase Plot nos :2, 3, 4, 8, 9 to 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 29 to 31, 34, 42 to 48 from M/s. G.V. Builders and developers (Regd) who purchases the plots from DR. B.R. Ambedkar multipurpose MACC Society Ltd through open auction on 12/05/2024 In this Context the general public are hereby informed that if any body is have any objection they can present their bonafides to the undersigned with in 5 days after publication of this Notice.if no objection is received with in the stipulated time it will be deemed that there is no objection for purchase of Subject Plots and my client will proceed further on this issue

Sd/- **POCHIRAJU RAMESWARA PRASAD** LL.M
Advocate
Ruby 55, Praneeth Pranav County, 58, Praneeth County Rd, Krishna Reddy Pet, Hyderabad, Telangana 502319.
Ph: 98482 42714

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public is hereby informed that my client **Naresh Kumar Esnagari** is the absolute owner of "Open Plot in Survey No.697, admeasuring 300 Sq.Yds situated at Chattanpally Village, Shadnagar Municipality, Farooqnagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District by virtue of Doc.Nos.6850/2022 & 3915/2023. The sellers in 3915/2023 i.e., Kadige Lavanya, Chippa Narsimha and Chippa Praveen are the legal heirs of late Ch.Sugunamma who died intestate, except these, there are no other legal heirs to her. The general public is hereby called upon that, if any individual or bank or financial institution has any objections, claims, right, lien, title over the above referred property, may contact / approach the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice with relevant documents in support of their claim, otherwise my client will treat that there are no claims / objections from the general public and my client will not be bind by any claims made thereafter on this property.

T.N.Sreenivasulu,
M/s. Sree Legal Associates,
 # 303, Riviera Apartments,
Dwarakapuri Colony,
Panjagutta, Hyderabad 500082
Cell: 9848148999
sreelegalassociates@gmail.com

Telangana Today
8-2-603/1/7,8,9, Road No 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 34
Email:
t.todayadvt@gmail.com

PUBLIC & COURT NOTICE & CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISEMENTS
9848077857
9182777757

TDF launches 2nd phase of relief work

STATE BUREAU
Khammam

Telangana Development Forum launched its second phase of flood relief works in Khammam rural and Danavaigudem villages, which were severely affected by recent heavy rains and floods.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy kicked off the second phase relief activities and appreciated the humanitarian support extended by the TDF to flood-hit families. He requested TDF to continue its relief work, as there was a great need for support. Under the guidance of TDF India president Rajeshwar Reddy volunteers distributed food and essential groceries to the poor, who had lost everything in the floods. They visited the flood-affected areas, interacted with the victims, and noted down their problems. The families requested the organisation to supply school stationery, basic medicines, and clothes. They also wanted help with electrical repairs and replacements in their homes as electrical wiring and appliances were damaged due to the flooding.

Woman hires impersonator to write exam, gets 3-yr jail

STATE BUREAU
Kothagudem

The second additional judicial first class magistrate K Sai Sri on Tuesday sentenced a young woman to imprisonment and imposed a fine for hiring a minor to write the SSC examination on her behalf in 2016.

It was said that an invigilator, Banoth Ramesh, while inspecting the exam room number 19 at SR Digital School Centre, Ramnagar in Kothagudem town on March 31, 2016 got suspicious about the identity of a student appearing for the exam.

> Rachabanti Seshamani had hired a minor to write the SSC examination on her behalf in 2016

Upon questioning, the student, E Anusha, admitted that she was writing the examination in place of Rachabanti Seshamani. Following this, the invigilator complained to chief superintendent N Shahaji Babu about the impersonation. Shahaji Babu then lodged a complaint with one-town police. Seshamani was found guilty after the trial, during which five witnesses were examined.

The magistrate sentenced Seshamani to three years of imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 under the Andhra Pradesh Public Examinations (Prevention of Malpractices and Unfair Means) Act, 1997, and one-year imprisonment under Section 419 of IPC.

Anusha, who was 17 years old when the case was registered, was lodged at a juvenile care centre for one week in Khammam.

Bank of Baroda adopts GenAI tech

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Bank of Baroda has made significant strides in its digital transformation journey by adopting advanced technologies in the field of data and artificial intelligence (AI) and introducing three different generative AI-powered solutions for its customers and employees.

'Aditi', a GenAI-powered Virtual Relationship Manager, aims to enhance the digital customer service experience. The human-like interface (https://www.bankofbaroda.in/contact-us/vrm) presented in the form of digital avatars, offers conversational banking across a range of services. Available on the bank's web portal, the capability supports audio, video, and chat-based assistance, ensuring 24x7 banking services with multilingual support, a press release said.

The Bank of Baroda has also launched a GenAI-enabled knowledge management platform, 'GyanSahay.AI' for its employees. This platform provides employees with instant and accurate answers, enabling them to seamlessly handle customer queries and access key operational details more efficiently. The bank has also launched GenAI-powered chatbot 'ADI' to improve digital customer experience and get the required queries solved through chatbot

Debadatta Chand, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Bank of Baroda, said, "Our digital GenAI-based conversational interfaces will improve the bank's digital customer experience. The bank will continue to enhance these GenAI use cases with incremental sales and service features driving customer self-service and immediate fulfilment."

Modi launches Subhadra Yojana

Women-centric programme, other projects unveiled in Odisha

PTI
BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched the Odisha government's flagship women-centric programme Subhadra Yojana, and unveiled railway and national highway projects worth over Rs 3,800 crore here, marking 100 days of the third NDA regime at the Centre.

Modi also released the first instalment of assistance to nearly 10 lakh beneficiaries under PMAY-G across 14 States. He took part in 'Griha Pravesh' celebrations for 26 lakh beneficiaries under the housing scheme from across the country. He also launched Awaas 2024 App for a survey of additional households for PMAY-G.

While participating in the Griha Pravesh celebrations, Modi visited Sabar Sahi slum in Bhubaneswar where he interacted with the beneficiaries. The PM inaugurated the homes of 20 beneficiaries under the PMAY there. Accompanied by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the PM visited the home of Antaryami Nayak, a beneficiary of the housing scheme, and savoured the traditional Odia sweet dish, 'kheeri', prepared at his residence. Modi spent some time at Nayak's home and blessed his children. Sharing his experience after he was offered 'kheeri' by a tribal family on the occasion of his birthday in Bhubaneswar, Modi said, "When my mother was alive, I used to visit here and seek her blessing on my birthday. She used to give me jaggery. Today, I got the blessings of a tribal mother who offered me 'kheeri'. The happiness of tribals gives me strength to work for them."

The Odisha government's Subhadra Yojana, financial assistance scheme, is the largest programme for women, which will cover more than 1 crore beneficiaries. The Prime Minister initiated the fund transfer into the bank accounts of more than 10 lakh women. The Prime Minister said that the promises made by BJP during the elections were being fulfilled at a rapid pace, including the four gates of the Jagannath temple in Puri were thrown open to the public.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during laying of foundation stone and inauguration of development works, in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday.

'Cong has problems with Ganesh Utsav'

BHUBANESWAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Congress and its "ecosystem" was angry with him for taking part in Ganesh Puja, claiming that "power-hungry" people who were dividing society were also having problems with this festival.

PM Modi made the comment in an apparent reference to the criticism by the opposition parties for participating in Ganesh Puja rituals at the residence of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, while addressing a rally after launching the Odisha government's flagship programme Subhadra Yojana here.

"Ganesh Utsav is not just a festival of faith for our country. It played a very important role in the freedom movement. Even at that time, the British who followed the policy of divide and rule used to hate Ganesh Utsav. Even today, the power-hungry people, who are busy in dividing society are having problems with Ganesh Puja.

You must have seen that the people of Congress and its ecosystem are angry because I participated in Ganesh Puja," Modi said at the rally. He also said that Lord Ganesh was "put behind bars" in Congress-ruled Karnataka by these people. PTI

India, US push for clean energy shift

To give impetus to sustainable aviation fuel, use of hydrogen

NEW DELHI

India and the US have agreed to give impetus to sustainable aviation fuel, promote electrification of medium and heavy-duty vehicles and use of hydrogen in buses, tractors and heavy equipment, said a joint statement issued after the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership dialogue between the two nations.

The two nations "welcomed increased investment in each country's clean energy markets", according to the statement issued after the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) Ministerial convened by US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri in Washington DC.

"While recognising the need to work towards a just, orderly and sustainable energy transition, which prioritises access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy supplies, the (two) sides welcomed the important role that energy trade plays in supporting the national priorities of both countries," the statement said. The two countries highlighted the importance of modernising the power distribution sector to supply 24x7 reliable power to consumers, welcomed support for India's smart metering deployment, as well as expanded efforts on inverter-based resources, power market reforms, system inertia estimation, and cybersecurity.

The Ministers also commended the Indian Railways efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and welcomed collaboration to support India's first round-the-clock renewable energy procurement of over 1.5 GW and development of an energy efficiency policy and action plan for all railway facilities.

"The two countries agreed to give an impetus to sustainable aviation fuel," the statement said. Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) is an alternative fuel made from non-petroleum feedstocks that reduces emissions from air transportation. It can be produced from non-petroleum-based renewable feedstocks, including the food and yard waste portion of municipal solid waste, woody biomass, fats/greases/oils, and other feedstocks. SAF can be blended in jet fuel to cut carbon dioxide emissions.

In this context, the sides welcomed new engagement on sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) with an inaugural SAF workshop to support training on R&D, tax incentives, supply chain capacity building, market development, financing opportunities, fuel certification, regional and international coalition building, and facilitating commercial partnerships.

The Ministers also welcomed the development of two joint reports on SAF and biofuels under the Biofuels Task Force, the statement said. PTI

Sensex hits fresh lifetime high

MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rose by nearly 91 points to close at a fresh lifetime high while Nifty settled above the 25,400 level for the first time in a range-bound trade on Tuesday amid firm global trends ahead of the much-awaited US Fed's decision on interest rates.

Extending its record-setting spree for the second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 90.88 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at a lifetime high of 83,079.66. The key index settled above the 83,000 level for the first time. During the day, it rose by 163.63 points or 0.19 per cent to 83,152.41.

The NSE Nifty gained 34.80 points or 0.14 per cent to settle above 25,400 level for the first time at 25,418.55 - its record closing high.

Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and Reliance Industries were the biggest gainers.

Will develop Kalaburagi as smart city: K'taka CM

KALABURAGI

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said the State government is planning to develop Kalaburagi into a smart city with an estimated investment of Rs 1,685 crore, which will improve the quality of life for its residents and attract investment in backward districts. Under the Mahatma Gandhi Nagar Vikas Yojana 2.0, Rs 200 crore each is being provided for basic infrastructure development in Kalaburagi and Ballari municipal corporations, he said.

The Chief Minister delivered his address on the occasion of 'Kalyana Karnataka Amrut Mahotsav' and the 10th anniversary of giving special status to Kalyana Karnataka under Article 371(J) of the Constitution after hoisting the national flag on the Police Parade Ground here. He noted that though India gained independence in 1947, the districts of Bidar, Kalaburagi, and Raichur, under the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad, secured freedom only a year later, adding, Kalyana Karnataka region joined the country due to the sacrifices of many freedom fighters, the "vision" of Jawaharlal Nehru, and the "strength" of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"I pay respect to all the great people who fought for the liberation of Kalyana Karnataka," he said. A scheme called 'Kalyana Patha' has been developed to improve road connectivity and rural development in the Kalyana Karnataka region, he said. Under this, the State government will build 1,150 km of roads in rural Assembly constituencies at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore. The government is ready to provide all necessary support to establish an AIIMS institute in Raichur. "We urge the Central government to take immediate steps to start AIIMS here," Siddaramaiah said.

For 2024-25, the State government aims to generate 4.85 crore person-days of work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the seven districts of this region. So far, 3.43 crore person-days have been generated, providing employment to 13.69 lakh people. PTI

Karnataka government to invest Rs 1,685 crore for attracting investments in the backward districts

MONSOON CLOUDS

Dark clouds hover above the Dasara Ghat, near Taj Mahal, in Agra on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

13 individuals test -ve for Nipah in Kerala

NEW DELHI

Kerala Health Minister Veena George on Tuesday said 126 people in Malappuram were isolated as high-risk individuals after the death of a 24-year-old man recently due to Nipah infection and of them, 13 were tested and their samples were found negative.

George, who met union Health Minister JP Nadda at his office here, said the district administration is closely monitoring 175 people in Malappuram. "As per our previous experiences before and as per the protocol there are high chances of virus is getting transmitted from one person to other person when the patient has severe symptoms," she said, adding based on calculations of the minimum incubation period, all of them are being closely monitored. "Samples tested so far are negative," she said.

George said Nadda has assured that the union health ministry will provide all the support and help to the State administration. She informed that according to protocol within 3 km-radius areas of that house, the district administration has declared several restrictions such as people have been asked not to gather and there is a time till when shops can function and containment zone has been declared.

As for the rest of the districts, she said people are asked to wear masks and advised to avoid gathering. PTI

Lenovo set to make AI servers in India

BENGALURU

PC maker Lenovo India will start manufacturing 50,000 GPU-based AI servers in India next year, the company said on Tuesday. Lenovo India Managing Director Shailendra Katiyal said that the company will make servers locally and also export them from its manufacturing unit in Puducherry.

"Lenovo will make 50,000 servers annually. Production will start next year. It will be manufactured at our Pondicherry facility not only for India but it will also be exported from India," Katiyal said. Lenovo India has been selected for the Rs 17,000-crore IT hardware production-linked incentive scheme. PTI

Wayanad relief memorandum lacks common sense: Cong

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/KOCHI

The opposition Congress in Kerala on Tuesday said the memorandum given by the ruling Left government in the State to the Centre seeking urgent assistance for the Wayanad disaster relief work was "devoid of common sense" and allegedly contained "inflated" figures.

The Congress said that the memorandum was prepared "carelessly" and did not conform to the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) norms. The allegations were made by Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly VD Satheesan, who said that the government failed to make a proper memorandum and hoped that it would not lead to Kerala losing out on the much- needed Central assistance. Satheesan said the amounts contained in the memorandum were part of the HC's order in a petition regarding Wayanad disaster and not created by the media or opposition.

He said that the figures mentioned in that have destroyed public faith and trust in the Wayanad relief measures. The opposition leader said that the memorandum was supposed to be made according to SDRF norms, but many of the things mentioned in it have no connection with the norms. Satheesan said that a huge amount was mentioned in the memorandum as cost incurred by the State on burying the remains, when the land for it was given free of cost and most of the burial work was carried out by volunteers.

According to the High Court order, the State government stated that "the cost involved and estimated" for burying 359 unidentified bodies and body parts after their DNA analysis was Rs 2,76,75,000 at the rate of Rs 75,000 per body/body part.

"How can the government claim it spent Rs 75,000 on burial of each remains? How can we trust these figures? There are irregularities in the preparation of the memorandum. This is not how it is prepared. It is devoid of common sense. It does not inspire confidence," he contended. PTI

Party says it contained inflated figures and did not conform to the State Disaster Relief Fund norms

Wholesale inflation at 4-month low

NEW DELHI

Wholesale inflation fell to a 4-month low of 1.31 per cent in August due to a decline in prices of vegetables and fuel, even though onion and potato prices spiked, according to official data released on Tuesday.

Wholesale price index-based inflation fell for second straight month after it hit a high of 3.43 per cent in May. Inflation in July was 2.04 per cent. In August last year, WPI inflation was (-) 0.46 per cent. "Positive rate of inflation in August 2024 is primarily due to an increase in prices of food articles, processed food products, other manufacturing, manufacture of textiles and manufacture of machinery & equipment etc," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement. PTI

In Brief

NEW DELHI

Rupee least volatile: Das

The rupee has emerged as one of the least volatile currencies worldwide, remaining "very stable against the US dollar" and the volatility index, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has said. According to Das, the central bank's stated policy is to prevent excessive volatility of the rupee. "Stable rupee fosters confidence among market participants, investors and the wider economy," Das was quoted as saying in reports. IANS

NEW DELHI

Report on WB economy

West Bengal has experienced decline in its relative economic performance over several decades, according to a working paper by Economic Advisory Council to the PM (EAC-PM). Authored by Sanjeev Sanyal, the paper 'Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24' said the development of eastern part of the country remains a concern. It said maritime states have clearly outperformed other states, with the exception of West Bengal. Although Bihar's relative position has stabilised in the last two decades, it remains significantly behind other states and requires much faster growth to catch up, it noted. PTI

NEW DELHI

Domestic air traffic rises

India's domestic passenger air traffic rose 6% (YoY) to 13.1 million in August and daily traffic trends for September indicate a moderate growth of 4% YoY to date, a report showed on Tuesday. SpiceJet hit a new low with its market share shrinking by 80 bps to 2.3 per cent (month-on-month), largely due to financial woes and increased grounding, according to the report by Emkay Global Financial Services. Indigo continues to dominate the domestic space, boosting its market share by 40 bps to 62.4 per cent in August, the report mentioned. IANS

NEW DELHI

Exports dip by 9.3%

India's merchandise exports in August declined 9.3 per cent to USD 34.71 billion from USD 38.28 billion in the year-ago month, according to government data released on Tuesday. Imports increased by 3.3 per cent to USD 64.36 billion in August against USD 62.3 billion a year ago. The trade deficit, or the gap between imports and exports, during the month under review ballooned to USD 29.65 billion. India's merchandise exports dipped by 1.5 per cent in July. Exports during April-August this fiscal increased 1.14%. PTI

Halting Hezbollah Israel's 'war goal'

Vows to bring home residents evacuated from country's north

AP
JERUSALEM

Israel announced on Tuesday that halting Hezbollah's attacks in the north in order to allow its residents to return is now an official war goal, as the country considers a wider military operation that could ignite an all-out conflict.

Israeli officials have repeatedly threatened to take heavier military action to halt the near-daily attacks, which began shortly after the outbreak of the nearly yearlong Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Israel has regularly launched airstrikes in response and has targeted and killed senior Hezbollah commanders. As recently as last month it appeared a full-blown war was imminent.

The tit-for-tat strikes have displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border. Hezbollah has said it would halt the attacks if there is a ceasefire in Gaza, but those talks have repeatedly bogged down. The United States has pressed for restraint even as it has rushed military aid to Israel, warning its close ally that a wider war would not achieve its goals.

Israeli media have meanwhile reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considering firing Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and replacing him with a politician seen as far more hawkish. That would be the biggest leadership shakeup in Israel since Hamas' October 7 attack triggered the war in Gaza and set off wider regional tensions. The announcement on Lebanon came after Israel's security Cabinet met late into the night. It said the Cabinet has "updated the objectives of the war" to include safely returning the residents of the north to their homes. "Israel will continue to act to implement this objective," it said. US envoy Amos Hochstein, who has made several visits to Lebanon and Israel to try to ease tensions, met with Netanyahu on Monday.

Smoke billows from the site of an Israeli strike on the southern Lebanese village of Taybeh. —Photo:AFP

Israeli military actions frustrate US

UNITED NATIONS: The US ambassador to the United Nations on Monday accused Israel's military of striking schools, humanitarian workers and civilians in Gaza in a sign of growing American frustration with its close ally as the war approaches its first anniversary. Israel has repeatedly said it targets Hamas militants, who often hide with civilians and use them as human shields, in retaliation for the October 7 attacks in southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people and launched the war in Gaza.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield was unusually outspoken against the Israeli military at a UN Security Council meeting, saying many of the strikes in recent weeks that injured or killed UN personnel and humanitarian workers "were preventable". Many council members cited last week's Israeli strike on a civilian shelter in which 18 people killed, including women and children. AP

Hezbollah men among 9 killed as pagers explode

Group blames Israel for sophisticated, remote attack; over 2,700 people injured

BEIRUT

Hundreds of handheld pagers exploded near-simultaneously across Lebanon and in parts of Syria on Tuesday, killing at least nine people, including members of the militant group Hezbollah and a girl, and wounding the Iranian ambassador, government officials said.

Officials pointed the finger at Israel in what appeared to be a sophisticated, remote attack that wounded more than 2,700 people at a time of rising tensions acr oss the Lebanon border. The Israeli military declined to comment.

A Hezbollah official who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the new brand of handheld pagers used by the group first heated up, then exploded, killing at least two of its members and wounding others. Lebanon's Health Minister Firas Abiad said at least nine people were killed and 2,750 wounded — 200 of them critically.

Iranian state-run IRNA news agency said that the country's ambassador, Mojtaba Amani, was superficially wounded by an exploding pager and was being treated at a hospital. Photos and videos from Beirut's southern suburbs circulating on social media and in local media showed people lying on the pavement with wounds on their hands or near their pants pockets. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah previously warned the group's members not to carry cellphones, saying that they could be used by Israel to track their movements and to carry out targeted strikes.

Lebanon's Health Ministry called on all hospitals to be on alert to take in emergency patients and for people who own pagers to get away from them. It also asked health workers to avoid using wireless devices. Photographers at area hospitals said the emergency rooms were overloaded with patients, many of them with injuries to their limbs, some in serious condition. The state-run National News Agency said hospitals in southern Lebanon, the eastern Bekaa Valley and Beirut's southern suburbs — all areas where Hezbollah has a strong presence — had called on people to donate blood of all types. The news agency reported that in Beirut's southern suburbs and other areas "the handheld pagers system was detonated using advanced technology, and dozens of injuries were reported." The Hezbollah official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media said the explosions were the result of "a security operation that targeted the devices." "The enemy (Israel) stands behind this security incident," the official said, without elaborating. He added that the new pagers that Hezbollah members were carrying had lithium batteries that apparently exploded.

Lithium batteries, when overheated, can smoke, melt and even catch on fire. Rechargeable lithium batteries are used in consumer products ranging from cellphones and laptops to electric cars. Lithium battery fires can burn up to 590 C (1,100 F). The incident comes at a time of heightened tensions between Lebanon and Israel. The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah and Israel have been clashing near-daily for more than 11 months. AP

Police officers inspect a car in which a hand-held pager exploded in Beirut on Tuesday. — Photo:AP

In Brief

BAMAKO (MALI)

Military camp attacked

A military training camp in Mali's capital was attacked by extremists early Tuesday, said the army. Gunmen attempted to infiltrate the Faladie gendarme school and a sweep operation is underway, said a statement from the military. The army said the situation was under control and asked people to avoid the area. The training school is located on the outskirts of the city. AP

BEIJING

Two dead in China rains

Two people died in China's eastern Jiangsu province as Typhoon Bebinca brought torrential rains and powerful winds before easing into a tropical storm, state media reported Tuesday. Two residents of Zhoushi Town, about 80 kilometres northwest of Shanghai, were hit by a falling high-voltage power line and electrocuted on Monday, according to state broadcaster CCTV. AP

ISLAMABAD

Pak: $2 billion new loans

The Asian Development Bank assured Pakistan it will provide $2 billion annually in new loans to the cash-strapped country amid the government's inability to get cheaper credit due to its worsened ratings. The assurance was given by the visiting ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa during his interaction with Pakistani authorities on Monday, The Express Tribune reported. PTI

MELBOURNE

Violence rages in PNG

Days of tribal violence in Papua New Guinea's mountainous interior have left more than 35 people dead, a police official said on Tuesday. Police Assistant Commissioner Joseph Tondon in Enga prov ince said the death toll from violence blamed on illegal miners was still being assessed. "There was a fierce battle. It's estimated 35-plus men were killed," Tondon said. AP

Trump blames Biden, Harris for assassination plot

WASHINGTON

Launching a fiery attack against Democrats, former US President Donald Trump said that President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris' "rhetoric" is responsible for the second assassination attempt against him since July, media reported. Trump said that the suspected gunman "acted" on the "highly inflammatory language" of Democrats, CNN reported.

The Republican nominee's sharp remarks came a day after he escaped an attack at International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. During an interview with Fox News, the former President said that the suspect "believed the rhetoric of Biden and Harris, and he acted on it". Trump added, "Their rhetoric is causing me to be shot at, when I am the one who is going to save the country, and they are the ones that are destroying the country — both from the inside and out." He pointed to comments made by Biden and Harris that Trump is a threat to democracy, according to Fox News Digital, and said, "These are people that want to destroy our country." He said that Biden and Harris, "They are the real threat. They use highly inflammatory language," Trump said. "I can use it too 'far better than they can' but I don't," he added.

Harris, her running mate and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, and Biden all quickly expressed relief that a person suspected of planning to target Trump at one of his Florida golf courses was spotted before he could get off a shot and that the former President was safe. Harris said she was briefed on the incident and wrote on social media: "I am glad he is safe. Violence has no place in America." Biden and Harris have both argued Trump presents a clear threat to US democracy. When Biden began his 2024 campaign which he has since suspended, he pointed to the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol that Trump incited and argued Trump was "willing to sacrifice our democracy, put himself in power". Harris has argued Trump is a "threat to our democracy and fundamental freedoms".

The suspected gunman, Ryan Wesley Routh, possessed an AK-47-style rifle pointing through the chain-link fence out towards the green, a go-pro camera, and two backpacks. Routh escaped from the spot but was pulled over and arrested on I-95, according to Fox News report. Following the shooting incident near his Florida Golf Course on Sunday, former US President Trump said that he is absolutely "safe and well". IANS

Says he will 'get along well with China'

NEW YORK: Former US President Donald Trump has said that he will "get along well with China" and did not think that nations and others like Russia are the "enemies" that President Biden's administration considers them. "I think we'll get along great with China," the Republican presidential candidate said on Monday during an online interview on X Spaces that again brought out his foreign policy ambivalence and his mercurial approach to policy. IANS

6 Perish in Portugal Wildfires

A firefighter watches as wildfire rages on at Ribeira de Fraguas, Albergaria-a-Velha in Aveiro, Portugal. According to officials, six people were killed and over hundreds fled their homes. — Photo: AFP

"Imran's military trial not on cards"

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government informed the High Court that jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's military trial is not under consideration, days after the court sought clarification over the uncertainty surrounding the issue.

Khan, 71, had filed a petition in the Islamabad HC against the possibility of his military trial in connection with cases registered against him over his involvement in May 9, 2023 violence in which supporters of his PTI allegedly attacked military installations following his arrest. The IHC had asked the government to clarify the uncertainty over the issue. PTI

Pakistani artist finds his 'lost' works displayed on TV serial

KARACHI

The Sindh government has formed a two-member committee after a Pakistani artist claimed that his paintings, which were supposedly lost/stolen seven years back, were displayed in a drama serial on television. Artist Seffy Soomro said he immediately contacted the relevant authorities at the Sindh and Karachi Cultural Department, who had told him in 2017 that his works were either lost or stolen after an exhibition held at the Frere Hall here.

Soomro had made the paintings as part of a thesis for the University of Sindh's Fine Arts Department, underscoring the personal and academic value they held, Soomro said over the telephone on Tuesday and added, "I have proof of this." He came across his works while watching an ongoing popular drama serial starring two big actors, Hania Aamir and Fahad Mustafa. "Imagine my feelings when I see my paintings on the wall during a drama serial," Soomro said.

> Soomro came across his works while watching an ongoing popular drama serial starring two big actors

"I had sent them for an exhibition in 2017 and despite reminders never got them back and was eventually told they were lost. I was not even compensated for them," Soomro, who belongs and resides in Ghotki in Sindh, said.

The artist also posted a message on Facebook narrating his ordeal: "Assalam o Alikum... I'm Seffy Soomro from Daharki, district Ghotki. I'm an artist. In 2017, I gave my paintings to Frere Hall for an exhibition. After the exhibition was over, I asked for them back. However, I was told that my paintings couldn't be found. After a while, I gave up thinking perhaps they were, in fact, lost. After all, we're all human," he said in the message.

However, the company which produced the TV drama distanced itself from any wrongdoing. "We want to clarify that the location used for the scene in question and the assets, including the paintings, were rented by us for the shootings," a statement from production company said. PTI

Meta bans Russian state media outlets

LONDON

Meta said it's banning Russia state media organisations from its social media platforms, alleging that the outlets used deceptive tactics to amplify Moscow's propaganda. The announcement drew a rebuke from the Kremlin on Tuesday. The company, which owns Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, said that it will roll out the ban over the next few days in an escalation of its efforts to counter Russia's covert influence operations.

"After careful consideration, we expanded our ongoing enforcement against Russian state media outlets: Rossiya Segodnya, RT and other related entities are now banned from our apps globally for foreign interference activity," Meta said in a prepared statement. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov lashed out, saying that "such selective actions against Russian media are unacceptable," and that "Meta with these actions are discrediting themselves." "We have an extremely negative attitude towards this. And this, of course, complicates the prospects for normalizing our relations with Meta," Peskov said during his daily conference call.

Doctors Without Borders closes ops

Doctors Without Borders said that it closed operations in Russia after 32 years, citing a Justice Ministry letter that said the medical aid group had been removed from a register of foreign nongovernmental organisations. The aid group, also known by its French language name Medecins Sans Frontieres and acronym MSF, said it would retain its branch office in Moscow, but operations – run by its Dutch affiliate – have stopped. It was MSF Netherlands whose registration was withdrawn. AP

STREAMING NOW

Cricket: SL vs NZ, 1st Test Day 1, 10 am on Sony Sports Ten 5

Football: UCL, Club Brugge vs Dortmund, 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Sports Ten 5

Man City vs Inter, 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Sports Ten 2 & 3

PSG vs Girona, 12.20 am (Thursday) on Sony Sports Ten 1

In Brief

KARACHI

ICC to review arrangements for CT in Pak

A five-member delegation of the International Cricket Council (ICC) will land in Karachi on Tuesday for an inspection visit for next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan. Top officials of ICC's Events and Security Departments and the General Manager Cricket and Production Manager are part of the delegation. The ICC delegation would discuss the tentative schedule of the tournament which was prepared.

NEW DELHI

Indian teams set for Pickleball WC

Two Indian teams comprising a total of nine players have been selected to compete in the Pickleball World Cup in Lima, Peru from October 22-27. The Indian team for Open category will be led by Dhiren Patel and will feature Himansh Mehta, Suraj Desai, Rakshika Ravi and Anshi Sheth. The Seniors 50 plus category will feature Nozer Amalsdiwala, Kiran Salian, Bela Kotwani and Sujay Parekh.

CHANGZHOU

Priyanshu bows out in opener

Priyanshu Rajawat suffered a straight-game defeat to Canada's Brian Yang as he made an opening-round exit from the China Open on Tuesday. The 22-year-old Indian went down 13-21 16-21 to his Canadian opponent in a 36-minute men's round-of-32 contest of the Super 1000 tournament. Rajawat, the world number 36, was a member of the Indian team that won the historic Thomas Cup title two years ago.

NEW DELHI

Strikers enter Handball League

The organisers of the Women's Handball League on Tuesday announced that Kolkata Thunder Strikers (KTS) will be one of the six teams in the upcoming edition. Kolkata Thunder Strikers not only aims to redefine the traditional roles for women through the game of handball, it is dedicated to develop a strong, and competitive team that will strive to revive city-based sports teams in the state.

Caught In Action

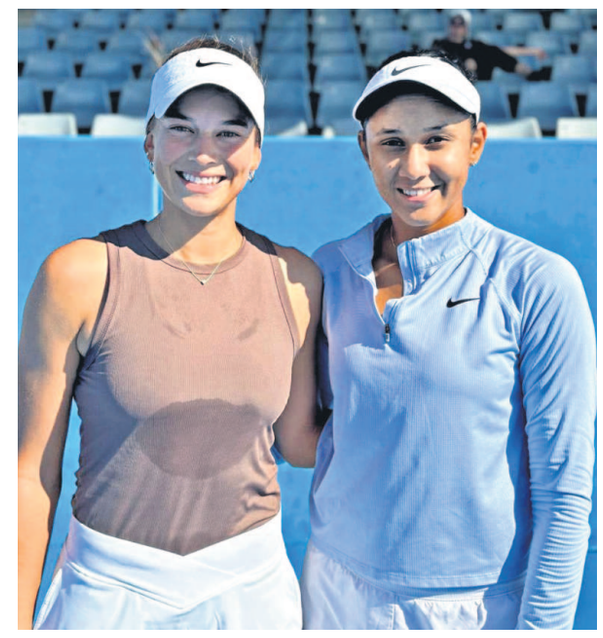
Pittsburgh Pirates' Yasmani Grandal (right) and St. Louis Cardinals' Brendan Donovan in action in St Louis, Missouri.. — Photo: AFP

Rashmikaa pair secures upset win, enters quarters

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

Hyderabad tennis player Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty and her Australian partner Tenika Mcgiffin registered an upset victory over third-seed Australian pair of Aiava Destanee and Hule Petra to advance to the women's doubles quarterfinals of the ITF Women's World Tennis Tour, W75 Perth ($60,000) Tennis Tournament in Australia on Tuesday. In the pre-quarterfinal match, the Rashmikaa, Tenika pair dominated, winning 6-2, 6-2 to secure a spot in the last eight.

RESULTS: Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty (IND)/Tenika Mcgiffin (AUS) bt Aiava Destanee (AUS)/Hule Petra (AUS) (3) 6-2, 6-2.



Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty (right) and Tenika Mcgiffin.

No different strategy needed, says Rohit

Indian skipper unfazed by B'desh's recent success, confident on team's approach

PTI
CHENNAI

India skipper Rohit Sharma on Tuesday asserted that there is no need to devise a new strategy in the upcoming series against Bangladesh, despite their impressive recent triumph over Pakistan and the presence of express pacer Nahid Rana in the visitors' ranks.

Bangladesh defeated Pakistan 2-0 in their first win over the latter in a Test series but Rohit did not read too much into it. "Every team wants to beat India. They take some pride in it. Let them have fun. Our job is to think about how to win the matches. We don't ponder about what the opponent team is thinking about us," said Rohit.

"India has played cricket against almost every top team in the world. So, there's no need to create a whole different strategy," added Rohit. The Mumbaikar was also not worried about pacer Rana, who can comfortably touch 150 clicks, but, rather than an individual, Bangladesh team as a whole remained his focal point.

"See, there will be a couple of new guys in the side. But all you can do is think about them and move forward. The same would be the plan against Bangladesh, i.e. to focus on our game-play," he noted. In that context, Rohit remarked that managing the workload of bowlers, particularly that of the pacers, will remain a top priority for him as the season contains a total of 10 Tests, including a high-value Border-Gavaskar series against Australia from November.

"You want your best players to play all the games, but that's not possible because there is so much cricket. It is not only Test cricket, there is a T20 cricket happening in the middle of the Test series as well. So, you got to manage your bowlers around it.

"We have laid out some plans, as to how we are going to manage these bowlers. But yeah, we have done that pretty well. Even when we played against England, we managed to give (Jasprit) Bumrah one Test match off." The captain was also excited to see some fresh talents like Yash Dayal and Akash Deep, both of them are part of the Indian team here, emerging and doing well in domestic competitions like Duleep Trophy. "We have got a lot of bowlers who are there for us. You know, we saw the Duleep Trophy, like some exciting prospects there as well," he added.

Rohit and the team management will also have to keep some of the young talents like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel wrapped in cotton wool after experiencing some early success.

Indian team captain Rohit Sharma addresses the media at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

B'desh coach hails India as top challenge

CHENNAI: Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha feels playing against cricketing powerhouse India will give his team a fair assessment of where it stands internationally, as he looks forward to relishing the challenge against Rohit Sharma's side in the two-Test series commencing on Thursday.

Bangladesh are coming off a triumphant 2-0 away Test-series win against Pakistan, having annihilated the Shan Masood-led side by 10 wickets in the opening game, following which they won the second match by six wickets.

Howver, India, currently leading the World Test Championship (WTC) table, are expected to pose a much stronger challenge to Bangladesh despite the eastern neighbours riding high on confidence. "We are encouraged by playing the best team in the world, and coming to India and playing against them is the best challenge you get nowadays. Playing against the best always gives you the perception of where you stand," Hathurusingha said. PTI

Record prize money for Women's T20 WC

DUBAI

The winners of the Women's T20 WC will receive $2.34 million, a 134% increase from the previous edition

In a landmark decision, the International Cricket Council on Tuesday announced equal prize money for men and Women in World Cups, starting with next month's women's T20 showpiece, the purse for which has been hiked by a staggering 225 percent to $ 7.95 million.

The winners of the Women's T20 World Cup will walk away with $ 2.34 million from this fund, a 134 percent increase on the $ one million awarded to Australian women when they clinched the title in South Africa in 2023, said the ICC in a statement.

Men's T20 World Cup champions India had received $ 2.45 million in cash prize earlier this year. "The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will be the first ICC event where women will receive the same prize money as their male counterparts, marking a significant milestone in the sport's history," said the ICC. The decision ensures that the ICC reached its prize money equity target seven years ahead of its schedule for 2030.

The runners-up at the showpiece event next month will get $ 1.17 million, an increase of 134 percent in comparison to the $ 500,000 South Africa received for reaching the final on home soil at Newlands Cricket Ground. The two losing semi-finalists will earn $ 675, 000 (up from $ 210 000 in 2023), with the overall prize pot totalling $ 7,958,080, a massive increase of 225 percent from last year's total fund of $ 2.45 million.

Each win during the group stages will see teams take home $ 31,154, while the six teams who fail to reach the semi-finals will share a pool of $ 1.35 million depending on their finishing positions. In comparison, the equivalent pool for the six teams in 2023 was $ 180,000, shared equally. Teams who finish third or fourth in their group will take $ 270,000 each while the teams who finish fifth in their group will both receive $ 135,000.

"This move is in line with the ICC's strategy to prioritise the women's game and accelerate its growth by 2032. Teams will now receive equal prize money for the equivalent finishing position at comparable events as well as the same amount for winning a match at those events," the ICC added.

The ninth edition of the tournament will take place across two venues in the UAE — Dubai and Sharjah — from October 3 to 20. All group matches will be completed before October 15. PTI

Short takes

CRICKET MELBOURNE

Gillespie backs Aus bowlers 'to do the job' against India

Australia's formidable bowling attack featuring Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon 'can do the job' against India in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy later this year, believes Jason Gillespie. "I will be backing them in and I am sure they can do the job. They are the best bowlers in the country. This quartet, including Nathon Lyon, is the best possible bowling attack that Australia can put out in the park,"Gillespie said.

CRICKET LODON

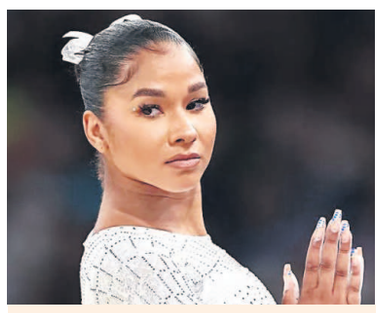
MLC franchise keen on signing Anderson: Report

James Anderson could return to T20 cricket after a decade following a Major League Cricket team's interest in hiring his services for the upcoming 2025 season. . "Senior figures with at least one MLC team have had their interest pricked by Anderson's comments last month about a return to white-ball cricket," according to a 'BBC Sports' report. The franchise is looking to hire the services of Anderson for the third edition of the T20 league.

FOOTBALL SYDNEY

Sermanni named as interim coach of Aus women's football team

Tom Sermanni has been named interim head coach of the Australian women's soccer team, his third time in charge of the Matildas. Soccer Australia did not renew former head coach Tony Gustavsson's contract after the Matildas failed to make it out of the group stage at the Olympics. It announced Sermanni's appointment on Tuesday as the federation searches for a new head coach. The 70-year-old will lead the team for next month's international window.



GYMNASTICS NEW DELHI

Jordan appeals in Swiss court to reclaim Olympic bronze

Two-time US Olympic gymnast Jordan Chiles has filed an appeal in the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland to overturn a decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) that stripped her of her bronze medal in the women's gymnastics floor event at the Paris Olympics. Chiles was initially given the bronze in the floor exercise at the Paris Olympics after an appeal over how the judges scored her routine was accepted and she moved up from fifth to third place.

ATHLETICS NEW DELHI

Double 1960 Olympic champion Otis Davis dies at 92

America's Otis Davis, the Olympic champion in the 400 meters and 4x400 relay at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, has died at 92, University of Oregon said. "We are heartbroken to learn of the passing of Otis Davis, our first Olympic gold medalist. He was a two-time Olympic champion (400, 4x400) at the 1960 Games in Rome and is one of the icons featured on the tower at Hayward Field," Oregon Track and Field posted on X late on Monday.

HIGH 'FIVE' FOR TEAM INDIA

Jugraj scores in team's 1-0 victory over China to win 5th ACT title

Victorious Indian team celebrates their Asian Champions Trophy triumph in Hulunbuir, China on Tuesday.

PTI
HULUNBUIR

A determined India claimed their fifth Hero Asian Champions Trophy title with a fighting 1-0 victory over hosts China here on Tuesday, completing a display of absolute dominance in the tournament in which they won all their matches.

Defender Jugraj Singh scored a rare field goal as the defending champions toiled hard before getting the better of their opponents. It was not easy for the Harmanpreet Singh-led India as they failed to break the Chinese defence in the first three quarters. Eventually, Jugraj broke the deadlock in the 51st minute to hand the Paris Olympics bronze medallists the win against a resolute Chinese side, which was playing in only its second international tournament final.

Before this, China's only appearance in the final of an international tournament was in 2006 Asian Games, where they finished second-best after losing 1-3 to Korea. Earlier in the day, Pakistan defeated Korea 5-2 to bag the third spot in the six-team competition. India, thus, became the most successful team in the tournament's history with a record-extending five titles. The Indians had previously achieved back-to-back titles in 2016 and 2018. Rewarding the team's efforts, Hockey India on Tuesday announced a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh for each player and Rs 1.5 lakh for each support staff member. India started the contest as favourites, having defeated China 3-0 in their opening league game, but the final turned out to be a very close affair. It was a keenly contested battle between the two sides in the first two quarters, even though India had better scoring chances.

> Rewarding the team's efforts, Hockey India on Tuesday announced a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh for each player and Rs 1.5 lakh for each support staff member

The Chinese defended deeply and troubled their rivals with brisk counterattacks. Raj Kumar Pal had the first shy at the goal for India but his effort was saved by Chinese goalkeeper Wang Weihao. Raj Kumar recovered well enough and earned India's first penalty corner in the 10th minute with some brilliant stick work, which resulted in another set piece but skipper Harmanpreet was off target with the second try.

Two minutes later, Nilakanta Sharma saw a sharp save from Wang and then, the Chinese goalkeeper showed brilliant reflexes to deny Sukhjeet Singh after being fed by Jugraj. Seconds from the end of the first quarter, India conceded a penalty corner but Krishan Bahadur Pathak was alert in front of the goal. The script was the same in the second quarter with India enjoying most of the possession and China relying on counters.

India pressed for goal in the face of a brilliant display of deep defending from China. The hosts didn't panic and stayed calm when put under pressure by the Indians. In the 27th minute, Sukhjeet Singh secured a penalty corner but Harmanpreet's attempt hit the post, as China did enough to hold India goalless at halftime. The nimble-footed Chinese came out with renewed vigour after the change of ends, mounting a series of attacks.

China secured their second penalty corner in the 38th minute but the Indians defence was up to the task. The Chinese continued their aggressive intent, earning back-to-back penalty corners in the 40th minute but India goalkeeper Pathak was alert under the bar. The young Indian forward line, which produced a fine performance in the tournament, too had its chances and penetrated the Chinese defence on a number of occasions but failed to find the target. It required a brilliant burst from Harmanpreet to finally break the deadlock. The in-form India captain sneaked into the Chinese circle with some fine stick work and neatly passed the ball to fellow defender Jugraj, who pushed it in past the opposition goalkeeper, as India heaved a sigh of relief. With the home crowd backing them, China withdrew their goalkeeper for an extra field player four minutes from the hooter, but the Indians managed to keep the ball in their control and defended in numbers to emerge triumphant.

India might have had an unbeaten run but chief coach Craig Fulton said the campaign was not easy for the young side. "It was tough for us, the good one in the end. We had to work hard, it was a really good fight. Seven games and we played some good hockey but we just couldn't score tonight but we got the result in the end," Fulton said.

Fulton said the last two months have been a roller-coaster for him as well as the team. "It has been a roller-coaster, Paris and what happened there and just eight days with the family. "To come here with a young group and some new players, the boys were tired but we found a way and that's always the sign of a good team," he said.

New look PSG eye European glory

Begin new UCL era without superstars

PARIS

For more than a decade, Paris Saint-Germain's Qatari owners have spent lavishly to attract big stars. Their goal was to make the club profitable, to erase the amateurish image of a side often associated with hooligans, and to build a competitive team capable of winning the Champions League.

With unprecedented revenues surpassing 800 million euros ($890 million) for the first time last year, they have managed to build solid growth. They also succeeded in ridding their stadium of the violence that often made the atmosphere at the Parc des Princes so tense and hostile. They also managed to bring the biggest names to Paris. The likes of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappé at times offered a glimpse of the possibility of winning Europe's biggest tournament.

But the Champions League crown remained a distant dream. The superstars have all now left the Parc des Princes, and it might sound paradoxical, but the club may be better equipped in its quest for continental glory. "The coach is leading us more and more towards his philosophy, it's more and more soccer based on a collective philosophy. We're moving in that direction," PSG captain Marquinhos said on Tuesday. "Even if there are not any big names or stars, we are ready to go for big achievements." Following the exits of Messi to Inter Miami and Neymar to Saudi Arabia team Al-Hilal in previous years, the departure of Mbappé to Real Madrid this summer marked the end of an era at PSG, where relying on the individual skills of star players.

PSG captain Marquinhos during a training session.

The big hole left by Mbappé was not filled by yet another superstar. Instead, coach Luis Enrique insisted on moulding what he had. Enrique's project makes sense: Mbappé can't be duplicated but he could be replaced by a handful of attacking players capable of scoring as much, or more, than the France captain did.

Enrique, who has used 21 players in four French league games so far.Enrique asked for the recruitment of less-known but excellent players in every sector to create competition and have second options at every position. It could be even more crucial this season as the Champions League's new format will see more teams playing more games. PSG starts on Wednesday against Spanish side Girona. AP

Prem stars with six-wicket haul in HCA's U-19 Jr Zonals

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

Gone Prem excelled with the ball, picking up six wickets in Team E's three wicket victory over Team B in the HCA Men's U-19 Junior Zonals (Vinoo Mankad Trophy Probables) in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Prem's impressive bowling led his team to bowl out Team B for 223 in 36.5 overs, despite Yashaswi's 85 and Ayaan Mohd Ahmed's 63 runs. Later, Team E reached the target in 47 overs, with Karan Patanayak top-scoring with 61.

Gone Prem

BRIEF SCORES: HCA Men's Senior Zonals (Multi Day): Team Yellow 257 & 118/3 in 40 overs (Jairam Kashyap 39, Vidyananda Reddy 3/37) vs Team Purple 197/10 in 58.1 overs (Alankrit Agarwal 46, Karthikeya Kak 2/54, Rishab Baslas 6/56); Team Orange 330 in 89.3 overs & (M Sai Karthikeya 33 no, Ajay Dev Goud 4/49, CTL Rakshann Reddi 2/91) & 28/1 in 6 overs vs Team Blue 318/10 in 78.3 overs (Buddhi Rahul 184, M Sai Karthikeya 6/74); **HCA Men's U-19 Junior Zonals:** Team C 255/9 in 50 overs (Siddharth Rao 68, M Karthik 63) bt Team D 205/8 in 50 overs (SM Hussain 69 no, A Sai Chandra 51, D Manish 3/34); Team B 223 in 36.5 overs (Ayaan Mohd Ahmed 63, Yashaswi 85,Gone Prem 6/48) lost to Team E 227/7 in 47 overs (P Koushik 43, Karan Patnayak 61, Divesh Bajaj 4/43); Team A 287/8 in 50 overs (Aaron George 91, Anudeep Javvaji 85, D Abhiram 2/38, Pradhipan J 3/50) bt Team F 148 in 41.1 overs (Pradhipan J 39, Kankshith Reddy 3/25, Jayanth Reddy 3/28); **HCA Women's Seniors & U-23 Zonals (T20):** Team D 93/8 in 20 ov ers (J Pujasree 22no, K Rajit ha 2/6, CS Sadhvi 2/18) lost to Team B 95/2 in 12.3 overs (Chadrasmitha Rao 36 no).

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Suhit wins online chess tournament

Suhit Ravikanti won the Brilliant Trophy Juniors Online Chess tournament on Tuesday. Suhit scored 9.5 points from 12 rounds, while Harivardhan and Bharat Penumatsa got second and third places with 9 points each. Results: 1. Suhit Ravikanti, 2. Harivardhan, 3. Bharat Penumatsa, 4. Anshuman Dey, 5. S D Sriharshini, 7. Sahasra Rallabandi.

MADRID

La Liga: Vallecano beat Osasuna

Abdul Mumin scored an early candidate for goal of the season as Rayo Vallecano came from behind to beat Osasuna 3-1 and record its first win in the Spanish league on Monday. In a game of great goals, Raúl García de Haro volleyed home from long range to put the visitors ahead after 26 minutes. The second half, though, was all Rayo.

MARGAO

ISL: Murray wins it for Jamshedpur

Jordan Murray struck in stoppage time as Jamshedpur FC rallied to prevail over FC Goa 2-1 in their Indian Super League match on Tuesday. Jamshedpur FC's first goal was scored by Javier Siverio in the 74th minute at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda. Armando Sadiku (45+3') scored FC Goa's first goal of this edition.

Horoscope

J U B Sastry

ARIES
Aries (March 21-April 20)
As Moon joins hands with Saturn in the area governing discomforts, your interests for the day would be limited to responsibilities at the workplace. You will work hard but you won't feel the hardness. There may be attempts to divert attention but you will not feel it as your mind would be revolving around work. The whole day, you will look determined.

TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)
With Mars in debilitation, you may feel that you have been given many responsibilities at the workplace. Feelings of being singled out by authorities may haunt and you may try to explore reasons. Apart from being overburdened, you may witness someone pointing fingers at you saying that you have not followed standard procedures in finishing the tasks.

GEMINI
(May 22- June 21)
You may be an excellent planner but overlooking of certain intricate details may delay your initiatives causing disappointment. With Mars still moving in debilitation zone, you may be overconfident of your assessment. Added to this, your impulsiveness may have forced you to overlook the flaws. Don't do things in a hurry. You need to study pros and cons thoroughly.

CANCER
(June 22- July 22)
You may have recovered from the blues of natural calamity that has troubled you in recent times. You may feel very confident of future planning and overcoming possible hurdles coming your way. It is good to develop such an attitude as negative thinking will keep you tied down. If someone advises you to be extra cautious over health issues, take that in right spirit.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 23)
It seems you have a college-going son. You may spend time discussing issues related to his academic future. You may be working in tune with plans for his long-term career but make sure you are not pressurising him into accepting additional burden at this time. Experiences of friends may have forced him to change ideas and you need to comply.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
Competitive spirit will keep you on high profile. You may, perhaps, love some of the people around gaining into philosophical mode and comparing yourself with others enjoying irrefutable philosophical credentials. You may be surprised at the acclaim others are receiving for little work and it may force you to change your attitude temporarily. You may be on the right course.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
With spiritual entity Saturn moving in retrograde motion and squaring Jupiter, you may deem it fit to review activity of the past few days. Somebody might have entrusted you with one or two big responsibilities but you may feel you have erred somewhere and your work is flawed. You may now think of applying corrections to make your work acceptable.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
Your love and affections may be adversely affected. If you are involved in love matters, you may run into disagreement of sorts. Misunderstandings and misconceptions may worry you and you may find it difficult to answer a plethora of questions from your loved one. Your priority may revolve around winning back the love from your sweetheart.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)
With Mars and Southern Node getting involved in square relationship, you may keep thinking of domestic problems and adversaries repeatedly. You may turn violent in your thinking for a while but that wouldn't last long. Your day will be marked by necessary and unnecessary arguments with family members. You may look disturbed over certain things.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
You will find someone highlighting your controversial decisions or actions with a view to corner you. If you are a decision-making authority in your organisation, the number of people objecting to your decisions may be on the rise and you may find yourself at a loss to explain things. What you think is logical may turn to be illogical for them.

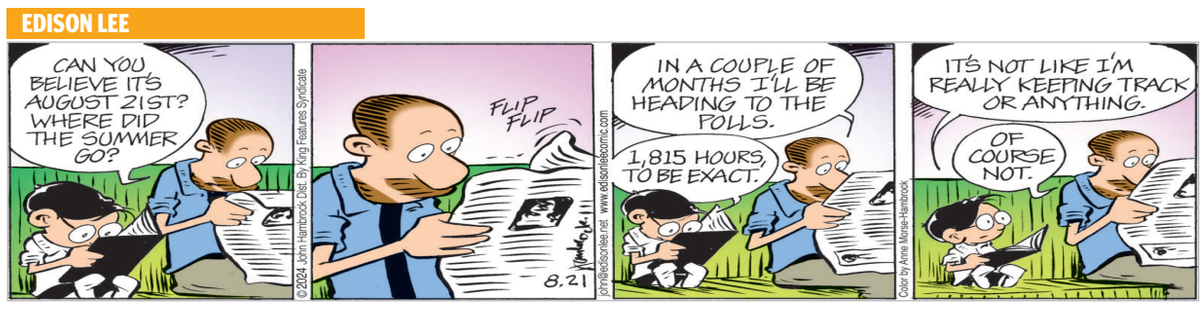
AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)
It seems you are involved in activity related to Government. The day will keep you satisfied in money matters. With Sun and Mercury controlling revenue matters from Virgo, you may receive payments from official agencies. If you are expecting funds from your father, you may hear something good from him. Somehow, the expected money flow would be there.

PISCES
(Feb. 20-March 20)
With your ruling quarters receiving multiple malefic influences, you may be back to old ways on key issues. You will also prove the saying that old habits die hard perfectly suits you. You might have given up certain habits under pressure from family elders or spouse recently but the day has high potential to restore your old habits. Try to keep off controversial hobbies.

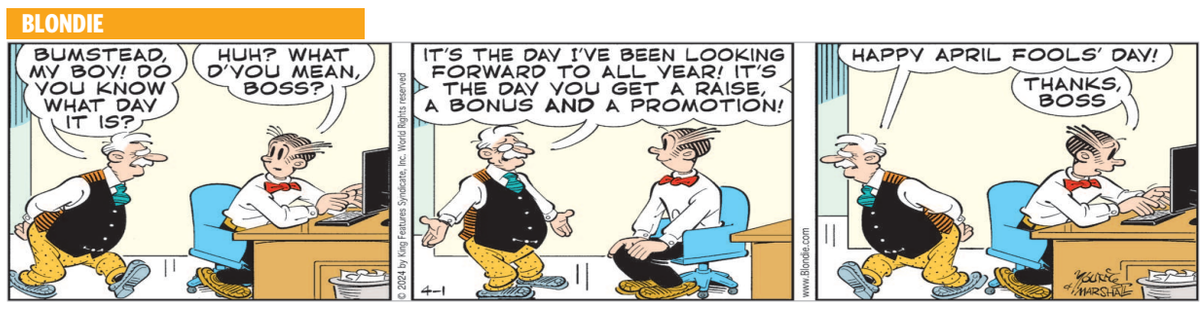
COMIC STRIPS

CALVIN & HOBBES

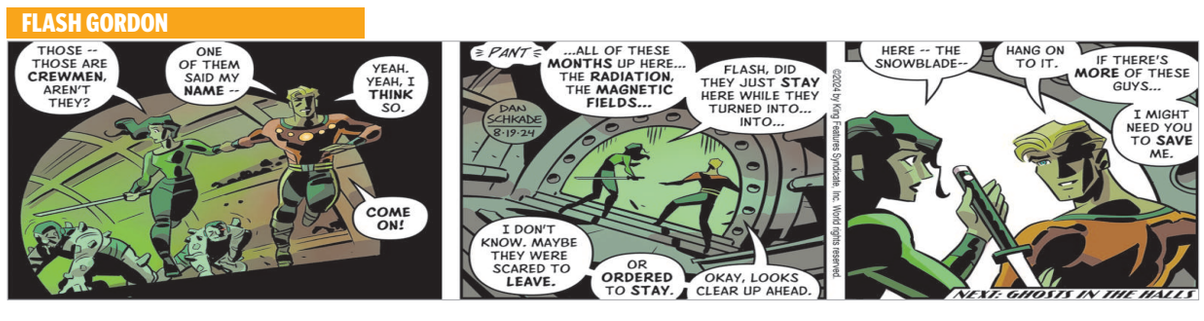
EDISON LEE



BLONDIE



FLASH GORDON



PUNJABI FILM DEBUT

Nimrit to star opposite Guru

Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia is all set to make her Punjabi film debut in the movie christened *Shaunki Sardar* opposite sensation Guru Randhawa

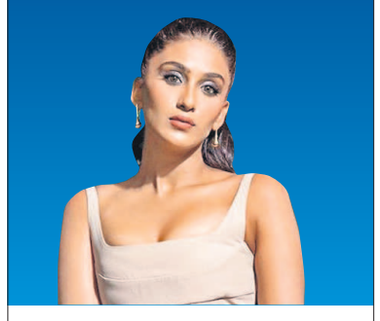


PHOTO UPDATE

Arijit's 'perfect' moments

Singer Arijit Singh shared pictures from his London concert as he performed with English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran

AFTER THIRD CHILD

Cardi on postpartum

Cardi B is making sure to approach her postpartum journey differently. She opened up about how her mindset is different during postnatal period

SHERLOCK HOLMES VIBES

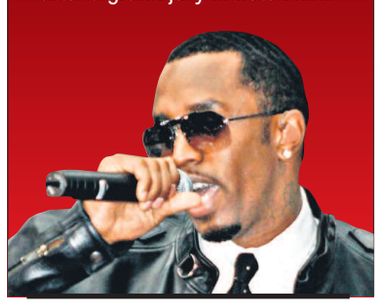
Striking photo shoot

Karan Tacker gave his fans a glimpse into latest photo shoot. Fans couldn't help but draw comparisons to the iconic detective Sherlock Holmes

POST JURY INDICTMENT

Sean arrested in New York

Months after being accused of sexual assault, rapper Sean 'Diddy' Combs was arrested in Manhattan. His arrest comes after a grand jury indicted him



MILESTONE

KAREENA COMPLETES 25 YEARS IN CINEMA

PVR INOX ANNOUNCES KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN FESTIVAL TO MARK THE OCCASION

Multiplex chain PVR INOX Pictures has curated a film festival to celebrate the 25 years of Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan in cinema. Titled 'PVR INOX celebrates 25 Years of Kareena Kapoor Khan Festival' is a week-long film festival that will run over 30 cinemas halls in 15 cities from September 20 to September 27.

Kareena, who made her debut in 2000 with JP Dutta's cross-border love story 'Refugee', shared the announcement on her official Instagram page on Monday night. "The blood in my veins, the magic on screen... my job I love... the fire within... here's to the next 25. Thank you to @pvrcinemas_official & @inoxmovies for curating this beautiful festival... so humbled (sic)," she wrote.

The release of her latest film 'The Buckingham Murders', directed by Hansal Mehta, serves as a prelude to the gala.

The line-up includes 'Asoka' (2001) by Santosh Sivan, 'Chameli' (2003) by Sudhir Mishra, 'Jab We Met' (2007) by Imtiaz Ali, 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham' (2001) by Karan Johar, and 'Omkara' (2006) by Vishal Bhardwaj. Kareena will officially announce the festival on Wednesday at PVR INOX Lido Cinema, Mumbai. During the event, she will also discuss the curated films and share insights into her 25-year career.

Kareena said the last two decades have been exhilarating and seem like yesterday. "It feels fantastic to be a part of an industry that I love dearly and an industry that has given so much to me. I would like to express my gratitude towards all my directors, producers, and colleagues who've been part of my journey," the actor said in a statement. "I am honoured and look forward to the film festival curated by PVR INOX. It is exciting to think that through the film festival people of all generations will get to experience these amazing films, and I can relive the memories tied to these wonderful films. I'm eagerly looking forward to the audience's reaction to the film festival," she added.

The festival will be hosted across Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Gurugram, Noida, Pune, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Jaipur, Indore, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, and Trivandrum.

Niharika Bijli, PVR INOX Ltd, said the upcoming gala reflects the company's commitment to preserving the rich legacy of Indian films and offering a unique cinematic experience. "Kareena Kapoor Khan is a rare artiste who has consistently challenged conventions and delivered powerful performances over the last 25 years. Her work has not only entertained but also inspired generations of actors and cinephiles. We are delighted to host this festival in her honour and to bring her most memorable roles back to the big screen for fans to enjoy," Bijli added. PTI

Japan celebrates record Emmy wins for 'Shogun'

Japan erupted with joy Monday as the samurai series 'Shogun' won a record 18 Emmys for its first season. It took home prizes including Outstanding Drama Series, as star and co-producer Hiroyuki Sanada became the first Japanese actor to win the Emmy for best lead actor in a dramatic series. Co-star Anna Sawai won best actress in a dramatic series, also a first for Japan.

"You did it. You did it. Congratulations," Takashi Yamazaki, director of 'Godzilla Minus One', wrote on social media. People followed the awards live as the wins made national headlines. Entertainment media Oricon proudly reported that a work whose spoken lines were mostly in the Japanese language "made Emmy history". "The grand scale of Hollywood combined with the high quality of the production, including costuming, props and mannerisms; the collaboration between the Japanese professional team, headed by producer Sanada, and the local production team; as well as the acting that delivered a strong sense of reality, all came together," it said.

Actor Kento Kaku, who starred in the 2024 series 'Like a Dragon: Yakuza', said he was feeling inspired to pursue Hollywood dreams.

"After seeing how cool that was, who's not going to want to take up the challenge," he wrote on X. AP

Sana instrumental in execution of Mukerjea's docu

Former 'Bigg Boss 17' contestant Sana Raees Khan has spoken about her work and how she was instrumental in the execution of Indrani Mukerjea's documentary tilted 'The Indrani Mukerjea Story: Buried Truth'.

For Sana, facing the camera for the documentary was very easy. "It was very easy for me as I am used to facing the camera ever since I joined the profession, I have always been a media face owing to the high profile cases that I handle and moreover, I was playing myself in the documentary defending my client," Sana said.

"I fought relentlessly for my client Indrani Mukerjea to secure her bail and I am instrumental in the execution of the documentary. I get appreciated for my experimental nature and this documentary gave me national as well as international recognition," she added.

Sana gained the spotlight after she participated in the Salman Khan-hosted controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss 17'.

Does she plan to do any reality show? "I am not keen on doing any reality show as of now but you will be seeing me on screen," she said. Sana said that life has been amazing professionally and personally for her. "I was felicitated with an award for my work at the British Parliament in the UK and being occupied professionally with my firm SRK Legal and handling the most challenging cases of the country," she added. IANS

Emmy Awards ratings up more than 50%

The Emmys telecast on ABC reached nearly 7 million viewers, a jump of more than 50 per cent from the record low of the last ceremony in January and the biggest audience since 2021, according to numbers released Monday by the network.

Sunday night's 76th Primetime Emmy Awards, in which 'Shogun', 'Hacks' and 'Baby Reindeer' won top awards, was back in its traditional mid-September spot after the rare January ceremony that was delayed four months by Hollywood's strikes. That show, which aired on Fox, reached a record low audience of 4.3 million viewers.

ABC said Monday that the Sunday night show, hosted by Eugene and Dan Levy, reached 6.87 million viewers, a jump of 54 per cent despite competition from NFL football.

The height-of-the-pandemic Emmys in 2020 on ABC, with no in-person audience and remote nominees, set a new low at the time with 6.1 million viewers. The show bounced back the following year with 7.4 million for CBS with help from an NFL game lead-in.

But NBC's 2022 telecast dropped to 5.9 million, followed by the further decline in January of this year.

The Emmys telecast rotates annually between the four broadcast networks. The last time the Emmys reached more than 10 million viewers was 2018, when it drew in 10.2 million. IANS

Ritika's 'Bench Life' role inspired by real life story

Ritika Singh, who is seen as Meenakshi in the web show 'Bench Life' has revealed the actual inspiration behind her character.

Speaking about her role's inspiration, Ritika, who made her acting debut alongside R Madhavan, with the leading role in bilingual film 'Irudhi Suttru/Saala Khadoos', shared: "My character's arc in 'Bench Life' is our director Manasa Sharma's real life story. She was a living example right in front of me."

"To see her go from a software engineer to directing her own series was so inspiring. It makes me very happy to see women chase their dreams and keep their passion alive, by following where their heart takes them and fully committing to it. One needs to be really brave to be able to defy the societal norms, she said. IANS

Pamela to receive Golden Eye Award

Hollywood star Pamela Anderson will be honoured with the Golden Eye Award at the 19th Zurich Film Festival for her versatile career, the organisers announced on Tuesday.

Anderson, known for her work in popular drama series 'Baywatch' and films 'Barb Wire', 'Blonde and Blonder', and 'Scary Movie 3', will receive the award in person on October 4 at the Zurich Convention Centre before presenting her latest film 'The Last Showgirl' together with director Gia Coppola. Anderson is receiving positive reviews for her role as Shelley, the 50-year-old showgirl who discovers her long-running show is coming to a close.

Billed as a touching and bittersweet homage to a dancer in the twilight of her career with this nocturnal Las Vegas film, 'The Last Showgirl' also stars Jamie Lee Curtis. It recently had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Christian Jungen, artistic director of the Zurich Film Festival, said Anderson has poured her heart and soul into the character of Shelley.

"She completely immersed herself in her character, turned Shelley's inner life inside out with her facial expressions and made sure that we sympathised with her. A terrific performance, perhaps the best of her career, which deserves an Oscar nomination," Jungen said in a statement. PTI

Tanya on being part of *Badall Pe Paon Hai*

The 'Chak De! India' fame actor Tanya Abrol, who has been roped in by the makers to play Laali in 'Badall Pe Paon Hai' shared a sweet coincidence of saying yes to the show.

Tanya played the character of Balbir Kaur in Shah Rukh Khan's sports film 'Chak De India'. She's now playing the character of Laali in 'Badall Pe Paon Hai' which is one of the songs from 'Chak De India'.

Currently shooting in Punjab, Tanya shared: "For me the title is the line of the song from my debut film. How could I not do this show? Laali is a very unconventional character and the perfect tadka to bring in the story. I felt I am the perfect cast for it and felt motivated to do it."

Laali is someone who keeps doing video calls to check on her husband. Does Tanya follow her footsteps? "I am all for video calls. But my husband hates video calls. My parents and brother video call me almost everyday. And he says 'I don't know what changes in 24 hours that you have to look at each other's faces'. Slowly, I am bringing him to the other side trying to normalise video calls. I doubt it would happen though," she said. Tanya, who has been part of shows like 'Best of Luck Nikki' and 'Palampur Express', also shared the difference she has noticed on Indian television.

She said: "Without mincing words I must say the time was different. The popularity of shows was many times more. There was an era where TV was on top, number one for entertainment. Now with the OTT platforms and many more options available I do think it's not the same." IANS